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MR



## Curiosities of a Scots Charta Chest



*Three hundred and ten copies of this book have been printed, of which  
three hundred are for sale.*









SIR WILLIAM DICK BART.

*From the Painting by George Jamesone.*



Curiosities  
of  
A Scots Charta Chest  
1600-1800

With the Travels and Memoranda of  
Sir Alexander Dick, Baronet

Of Prestonfield, Midlothian

Written by Himself

Edited and Arranged by

The Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Mrs Atholl Forbes

FORBES (Margaret Alice Dick-Cunningham Forbes), Baroness  
author!

William Brown  
26 Princes Street, Edinburgh

1897

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To the Memory  
OF  
MY DEARLY LOVED BROTHER  
ROBERT  
WHO ENTRUSTED ME WITH HIS  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS  
THIS VOLUME IS  
SORROWFULLY INSCRIBED.

Sir Robert Keith Alexander Dick=Cunyngham  
Fifth Baronet of Prestonfield and  
Seventh Baronet of Lambrughton  
Born 21st December 1836  
Died 2nd May 1897





## Apologia

THIS volume of letters and Memoranda has been compiled apart from all idea of bookmaking, and solely with the view of bringing the reader directly into contact with the writers, who require but little introduction, the greater number being familiar, not only to historians, but to all those who interest themselves in Scottish family history.

To have done justice to the material contained in the mass of correspondence collected between 1600 and 1800 would have been a work of many volumes, and a labour which the researches of others render unnecessary.

The earlier letters point to the scant courtesy shewn by the Government to those who gave their substance for the benefit of their country ; and Sir William Dick may be considered fortunate in not losing his head as well as his money.

That matters were not much better at the end of the century than they were at the beginning, is proved by the experience of his descendant Sir James, whose country house of Prestonfield was burnt by a mob while he was in Edinburgh trying to preserve law and order. In a letter to a friend, he mentions his receiving the first news of the fire while at his tavern or club, and that on returning to his town-house, he found it crowded with friends eager for the latest information ; and that at a moment when he would fain have been quiet, for every word uttered had to be carefully considered.

From these troublous times we pass on to brighter days, and

see something of the life spent within the walls of Prestonfield, which were promptly rebuilt, for there Sir James' only surviving daughter brought up a large family, her third son Sir Alexander being the collector of these letters, now published for the first time.

In perusing these papers we come into contact with Allan Ramsay, the "auld canty carl," whose life and works are so ably described by Mr Oliphant Smeaton, in the "Famous Scots Series." Next, James Boswell makes his presence on the scene very distinctly felt, and his letters have an air of bustle and self importance that is truly diverting. Then Allan Ramsay junr. tells us something of his life while studying art in Italy; and the numerous *contretemps* that occurred when Sir Alexander Dick and he journeyed there together are graphically described by Sir Alexander in his journal, in which also we get a side view of the Chevalier, and of Prince Charlie in his young days, at Rome, making sport with the Pope and the Cardinals.

Finally, the penmanship is chiefly carried on by the fair sex, and the cousinly letters which passed between Sir Alexander's daughters and the Ladies Lindsay bring us within measurable distance of the present day.

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A. F.



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## Introduction

THE first historian to whom Scotland can lay claim was one John Fordun, a monk or priest of Aberdeen, who, justly appreciating the danger of the loss of all the early traditions of the country, determined to commit them to paper.

To make his history more complete he travelled into England, and gathering all the information that could there be obtained, he inscribed the matter thus collected in five volumes of manuscript, beginning with the remote ages and carrying the history down to his own period, 1386. Most of the copies of this manuscript, which is written in Latin, contain continuations by other writers, notably by Patrick Russail, a Carthusian monk at Perth; and at the end of one of these copies, the following names are inscribed, which show through whose hands it passed.

“Hen. Sinclair Episcopus de ross.”

“W Santclair of rosslin knecht anno d<sup>m</sup> 1603.”

“Ex libris D<sup>ni</sup> GUIL CUNINGHAME DE CAPRINTOUN.”

And on the last page :

“liber ROBERTI ELPHINSTOUN.”

Under these names, and written by the last mentioned, is a pedigree from Noah to Gaythelos, the supposed ancestor of the Scottish Kings, from whom are descended the Lords Kelmars, afterwards Earls of Glencairn, and founders of the family of Cunyngham of Caprington, who, with the Dicks of Braid and Prestonfield, form the *dramatis personæ* of this book.

John of Fordun also gives a pedigree of the Scottish Kings, which though not good enough for Mr Robert Elphinstoun,

will doubtless have a certain interest for the reader. Briefly, this is the manner in which he arrives at his conclusion.

In the days of Moses a certain King Neolus, of the Country of Greece, had a son beautiful in countenance but wayward in spirit called Gaythelos, who leaving his native land sailed to Egypt where he married Scots, Pharoah's daughter.

They set out for the West in quest of new lands, and passing by Africa settled for a while in Spain. Preserving this as headquarters, Gaythelos continued cruising the seas, and in so doing came to a beautiful tract of land in the ocean, so attractive that on his deathbed he exhorted his sons to go thither.

Accordingly Hyber and his brother Hymee the sons of Gaythelos and Scots set sail and took possession of the country, which is called Hybernian after them.

There was also one Smonbret who was King over the Scots, or descendants of Scotia or Scots in Spain ; he too went cruising over the seas, and on one occasion anchored off the coast of Ireland. On his weighing anchor, there was raised with it a block of marble carved in the shape of a chair, and this was taken as a presage of a future Kingdom.

Unless the fates are false the Scots will reign  
Where'er the fatal stone they find again.<sup>1</sup>

Possession being taken of the islands in the vicinity, the first

<sup>1</sup> Abercromby, in his *Martial Achievements of the Scots Nation*, relates the well-known story of the removal of the Stone from Argyllshire to Scoone, and thence to Westminster, and adds :—  
“ Now there was a Belief rivetted in the Opinion of the Scots, and by Tradition handed down from the earliest to the latest Generations, that wherever this Chair should be plac'd by Chance or Design, there the Fates or rather Providence had decreed the Scots to domineer. To this purpose, and to give the more credit to the Thing, King Kenneth caus'd the following uncouth Verses to be engraven on the Chair from thence thought and call'd Fatal—

Ni fallat fatum, Scoti quocunque locatum  
Invenient lapidem, regnare tenentur ibidem.”



of the leaders, by name Ettachus Rothay, grandson of Smonbret, landed on one of them<sup>1</sup> and thus the Island of Rothesay bears his name to this day.

Professor Aytoun in his "Bongaultier Ballads" arrives at much the same conclusion as to the origin of a well-known chief-tain, though in a shorter and less historic manner.

According to him

"Fhairshon had a son  
Who married Noah's daughter,  
And nearly spoiled ta Flood  
By trinking up ta water."

To return to our subject in the person of the Earl of Glencairn, it is related by Bishop Spottiswood, in his "History of the Church of Scotland," that when the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots was taken to Loch Leven Castle, this gentleman, "taking with him his domestics only, went to the Chapel of Holyrood-house and demolished the Altar, breaking the pictures and defacing the ornaments within the same. The preachers did commend it as a work of great piety and zeal, but the other noblemen were not a little displeased."

As a small memento of this occasion he seems to have carried off a service book, in which, amongst other interesting items, are "Legends of Holyrood," which have been described in the Bannatyne Club Miscellany.

One of these legends is the familiar one which accounts for the name of Holyrood, bestowed upon the Abbey, to which the Palace was at a later period attached.<sup>2</sup>

The Holy Rood, or Cross of the said legend, a small wooden

<sup>1</sup> Condensed from Skene's Translation of Fordoun.

<sup>2</sup> The earliest royal residence in Edinburgh was the Castle, then, when the Abbey was built, the King removed there; and lastly, as more room was required, the Palace was reared beside it.

one, was kept in the Abbey as the principal relic until King David Bruce took it with him to England, where he was taken prisoner, after which it was kept at Durham.

In early times the Abbey was burned and plundered by the English, but when armies were marching the monks had time to escape with their books. It was otherwise in 1557, when Queen Mary left Holyrood early in June, and the Cunynghams broke in, a few hours after her departure, to do what seemed best to themselves. A Memorial of that day's work, in the form of a Mass Book, was at one time preserved at Caprington Castle.

The Abbey Church of Holyrood became after this date the Parish Church of the Canongate until the time of Charles II., when it once more became the Chapel Royal. The services of the Church of Rome were again celebrated within its walls during the residence of the King's brother, the Duke of York (afterwards James the VIIth), upon whom Sir James Dick was in frequent attendance.

Without entering into endless genealogies, it is necessary here, for the better understanding of the Letters and Memoranda which follow, to give a short table of reference of the two families of Dick and Cunyngham, so inextricably bound together. The latter, like many other names, was spelt in various ways, originally Conyngham, then Cunyngham, Cuninghame, and again Cunyngham, which was reverted to as being the spelling in the patent of *Baronetcy*, owing to a mistake on the part of King Charles who wrote *Cunyngham* instead of *Conyngham*.

Sir James Dick of Prestonfield was created a Baronet in 1676. Several sons and daughters having died young, and his only surviving child being Janet, wife of Sir William Cuninghame, B<sup>t</sup> of Caprington, and she being his heiress in his estates of Prestonfield and Corstorphine, Sir James got from Queen Anne in 1707 a new patent of title, settling

the baronetcy Dick of Prestonfield to pass at his death to the second and younger sons respectively of his daughter Lady Cuningham; these, on succeeding were to drop the name of Cuninghame and take up that of Dick only, and were eventually to succeed to their mother's estate. This succession was carried on, till in 1829, on the death of Sir W<sup>m</sup> Cuninghame without children, the Cunyngham title passed to his first cousin (then Sir Ro<sup>bt</sup> Keith Dick of Prestonfield), and from that time the names and titles have been joined.

Sir John Dick was a distant cousin, direct male descendant of Capt. Lewis Dick, who was the 5th and youngest son of Sir William Dick of Braid (who died at Westminster 1655).

This Sir John—then Consul Dick of Leghorn—was “discovered” by James Boswell in Italy. His descent and family having been traced in the public records of Newcastle, where the family had resided, Consul Dick, by the introduction of James Boswell, received a cordial invitation to visit Sir Alex. Dick of Prestonfield, and in 1768 the proofs of his descent having been officially verified, Consul Dick was served heir to the Baronetcy of Braid, which had been dormant since 1733; Sir John Dick was then received at Court on the occasion. He died *s. p.* in 1804 in extreme old age, his wife having predeceased him, and all his money was annexed by the Doctor and the Lawyer.

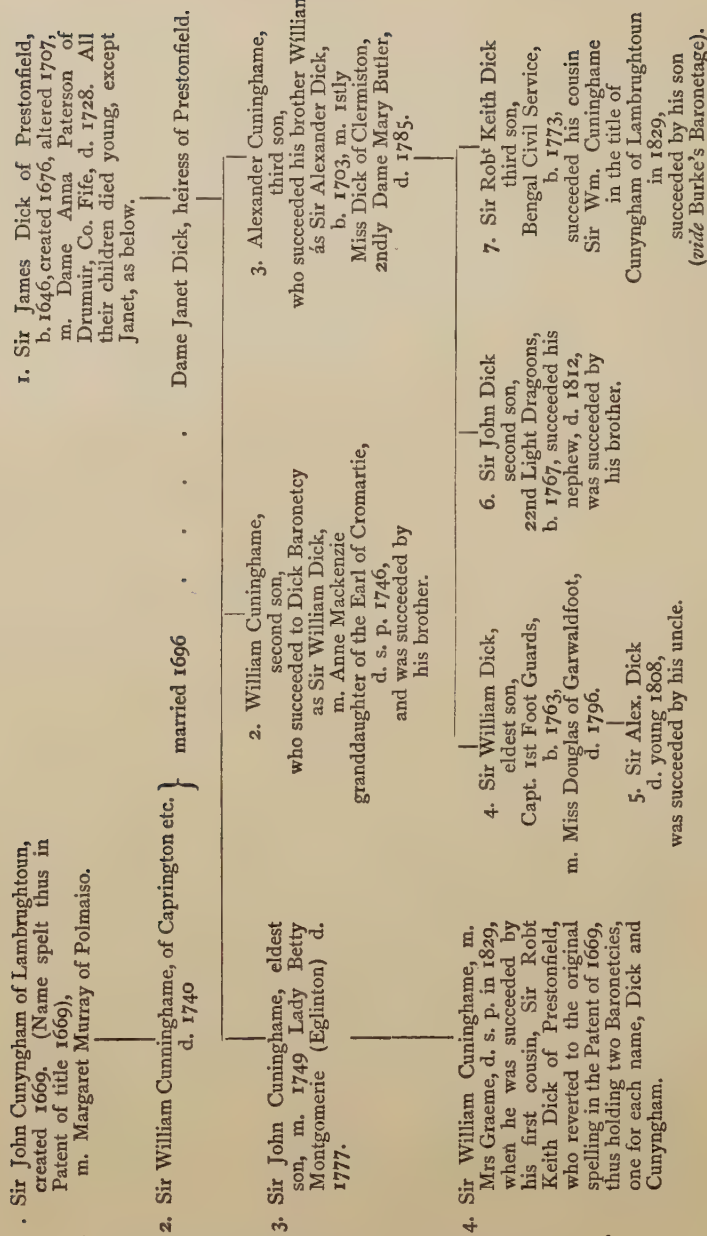
Mount Clare was for many years his country residence.<sup>1</sup>

The centre of interest in the following papers, and the recipient of nearly all the letters, is Sir Alexander Dick of Prestonfield, by whom this correspondence was preserved, and who also wrote a Diary of his own travels and a book of Anecdotes and Memoranda of the principal events which took place between 1730 and 1785, giving as well an outline of what took place in the previous century. This description, combined with the documents preserved, enables us of these later days to have a vivid idea of the insecurity and general temper of the times, derived directly from those who lived and suffered in them.

<sup>1</sup> The above Memo. and the table of reference were added to the papers by the late Sir Robert Dick-Cunyngham, as well as various notes throughout the Memoranda.



Eldest sons in succession to each other



## Chapter I.

King James and Capt. Dick—Sir William Dick lends money to the Treasury—The Arch rebel Oliver Cromwell—Sir William's death in Westminster Gaol—Scotland's letters—England and Scotland's debt to Sir William—A Prisoner of War—King Charles II. and the Presbytery—The King on the great Fire and the War—The Fleet under H.R.H. the Duke of York—Acts concerning Apparel and the importation of Brandy.

[1600—1680]









D 2 Bolls

Shipped by the Grace of God, in good Order and well Conditioned,  
as *Wm. Douglass* for *sa: Scotland* in and upon the good Ship  
called the *Alexander of Leith* *Robert Dundas*  
whereof is Master under God for this present Voyage, *to Leith*  
and now riding at Anchor in the Bay of *sa: Leith*  
and by Gods Grace bound for *Leith* *to*  
*Wm. Douglass* *sa: Scotland* *for account and*  
*James Dukes of Edinburgh*

being  
marked and numbred as in the Margent, and are to be delivered in the like  
good Order and well Conditioned at the aforesaid Port of *Leith*

(the danger of the Seas only excepted) *Wm. D*  
*James Dukes*

For to his Assigns, be or they paying freight for the said goods  
according to *Charterparties*  
with Primage and Average accustomed. In witness whereof, the Master or  
Purser of the said Ship hath affirmed to three Bills of Lading all of this  
tenor and date, the one of which three Bills being accomplished, the other  
two to stand void. And so God send the good Ship to her desired Port  
in safety. Amen. Dated in *Leith* *the 13th* *of* *July* *1683*  
*James Dukes* *Master* *to* *James Dukes*

## Chapter I.

OUR Story begins with James the VI. of Scotland, when having arranged to espouse the Princess Anne of Denmark, he decided to go there in person to bring his lady-love home.

"For this purpose he selected Captain John Dick to command the royal vessel and so prosperous a voyage did they have both going and returning, and so much was His Majesty pleased with Capt. Dick's conduct in bringing him and his Bride safely to Leith, that he asked the Capt. if he was married, and on receiving the reply 'Not yet an please your Majestie,' says the King, 'Then Sir, I will give you a good wife of my own choosing and my own name, and the ladie is the sister of Sir Lewis Stewart of Kirkhill, my Lord Advocate of Scotland, to whom you shall be properly introduced.'<sup>1</sup>"

This was accordingly done, and the marriage took place, the lady presumably being not unwilling. In course of time, a son, William, was born, and doubtless largely owing to the knowledge of foreign lands obtained from his father, he became in after years one of the greatest merchants of his day. He was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia, and was Lord Provost of Edinburgh, a post which at that period carried much power and dignity. A Bill of Lading dated 1683 lies among the family papers, and, as a curiosity, it is annexed in facsimile.

The first public event which brings Sir William prominently before us is the struggle between Charles I. and his Parliament, in which the Scottish army under General Leslie bore a part. That struggle culminated in the battle of Marston Moor in 1644,

<sup>1</sup> Sir Alexander Dick's Memoranda.

## 4      Curiosities of a Scots Charta Chest

but the maintenance of so large a force in the field, required the aid of wealthy and patriotic citizens, and Sir William Dick advanced the large sum of nearly £65,000, which nowadays would represent a great deal more.<sup>1</sup>

“Unfortunately for him,” writes old Sir Alexander in his Memoranda, “the rebellion against King Charles took a new form under that arch rebel Oliver Cromwell, who, not only destroyed the King, but the Constitution.” All Sir William’s endeavours later on to get repayment of his loan to the Treasury, or even interest upon it, failed utterly, and he was therefore unable to carry on his mercantile transactions with foreign countries for want of ready money. He went to London, taking with him a recommendation from the Chancellor of Scotland (the Earl of Loudon) which was backed by all the Members of State, but it was of no avail, indeed the representations were worse than useless, for to silence so large a creditor, he was thrown into Westminster Gaol and declared bankrupt, ultimately dying there in great misery. The greater part of his landed estates in Midlothian and Haddingtonshire were sold at three or four years purchase, instead of at twenty; which was all the patrimony left to his widow and children. A sorry ending for a man of his wealth and position, whose time and money had been spent in the interest of his country.

The three engravings which are here reproduced, are taken from a printed book of letters stating the entire case of Sir William Dick, with copies of many letters addressed to the House of Commons by the Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Chancellor (or Secretary of State) for Scotland, and others; and as copies of this exceedingly curious book are very rare,

<sup>1</sup> Eighty thousand pounds a month were requisite for the subsistence of the Scotch and English Armies.—*Hume’s History of England*.



PUBLICA SALUS NUNC MEÆ MERCES.

PRO FŒDERE, REGE, ET GREGE.

1640.



See here a Merchant, who for's Countries good,  
Leaves off his Trade, to spend both Wealth and Blood;  
Tramples on Profit, to redeem the Fate,  
Of his decaying Church, and Prince, and State.

Such Traffick, sure none can too highly prize,  
When Gain it self is made a Sacrifice.  
But Oh! how ill will such examples move,  
If Loss be made the recompence to Love.





*He Whom you see thus by vile Sergeants torn,  
Was once his Countries pattern, now their scorn;  
Whilſt into Priſon dragg'd, he there complains;  
Who leaſt deſerves, doth ſoonest ſuffer Chains.*

*And who for Publick doth his Faith engage,  
Changes his Pallace for an Iron Cage.  
Then adde: To ſhew his unbecoming Fate,  
He had been free, had he not ſerv'd the State.*

B Wil. D









*See him expos'd to th' curse of the Skie,  
Who for his Countrey durst do more then die  
His helpless Issue now survive to tell,  
Their Father's d'st without a parallel.  
Since Miserable, Naked, and Forlorn,  
Went to the Grave as he was born.*

*Of this brave man, it onely may be said,  
Not here he buried lies, but here he's laid.  
Such strange il-boding Epitaphs to scan,  
Will wound a State more, then an Army can;  
For who'll trust private men, if States endure  
To see him wretched, who made them secure.*

Wm. Devaux.  
The



and the last one known to have changed hands fetched a very high price, a few of these letters are here copied for the benefit of those interested in such old world documents.

The Pamphlet, which was issued in folio size, is entitled,

THE LAMENTABLE ESTATE AND DISTRESSED CASE OF THE  
DECEASED SIR WILLIAM DICK IN SCOTLAND, AND HIS  
NUMEROUS FAMILY AND CREDITORS FOR THE COMMON-  
WEALTH; and the Preface opens thus:—

“HONORABLE AND COURTEOUS READER,—That your eyes may affect your heart, you have here presented to your view (the Mirror of his Age amongst men of his quality) the deceased Sir William Dick, Lord Major of Edinborough in Scotland; Renowned both at home and abroad as a Famous Merchant.”

The author then describes the immense benefits Sir William had conferred on his country by his services, and by his money given on loan to the Government; from whom he states nothing was recovered save a paltry sum, while he lost all credit and was thrown into prison. And, says the Chronicler:—

“Floods of Desolation and Distress have overwhelmed him and his Children with their numerous Families and little ones; Their Lands and Houses being extended and possessed by the Creditors in the cruel execution of the Law; their Chattels and Goods, yea, their Garments, the Covering of their Nakedness, and the Coverlet, in which they should sleep, being publickly distrained and seized upon for these Debts and Disbursements engaged in by them to promote the Publick Service: Neither is this all, One Wo is past, and behold two Woes come after this; Ah! the Old man himself was once and again disgracefully cast into prison for small Debts contracted for necessary livelihood, during his attendance for Satisfaction.”

Then, after describing his death, without even a decent funeral, the sad tale continues:—

“And to compleat the third Wo and perfection of sorrowfull Afflictions,

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his Children are cast at this day, and lying in Prisons these twenty Moneths past for Publick Debts, in great sufferings of their Persons, Credit, and Calling, and weariness of life, crying for Death more than for Treasure."

The following documents need no further comment :—

COPIA OF SCOTLAND'S LETTER TO THEIR COMMISSIONERS AT  
LONDON, 1 MAY 1644, CONCERNING SIR WILLIAM DICK.

RIGHT HONORABLE,—Your Lordships know, how readily and seasonably Sir Will. Dick of Braid in our great troubles advanced several sums to the Publick, for which we assigned him the last Forty thousand pounds Sterling of the Brotherly assistance payable at Midsummer 1642, whereof he has only Five thousand six hundred pounds, and so wants Thirty-four thousand four hundred pounds, and is thereby disabled now in the time of our great straits to give us these necessary supplies which formerly we had from him : As he has found hereby great prejudice in his affairs, which constrains him now to urge payment ; So the remembrance of his former good offices, his present readiness in everything for the Publick, and the great engagements of the States for payment of his advancement, has moved us to write to the House of Commons in favors of the said Sir William, and of the Bearer Robert Inglis, Merchant, his Commissioner, whom we do also recommend to your Lordships, and earnestly desire that by your best endeavours with both Houses of Parliament, you would procure payment of the said Thirty-four thousand four hundred pounds with interest since Midsummer 1642, to the said Robert Inglis in name of the said Sir William, hilsoon possibly you can, as a service most acceptable both to him and to us.—Your Lordships assured Friend,

LOUDON CANCELLARIUS, F.P.D.

1 May 1644.

COPIA OF SCOTLAND'S LETTER TO SIR WIL. DICK, 12 DEC 1645.

ASSURED FRIEND,—We do acknowledge your Advancements and Service to your Country and us in our streights and difficulties, to have been timeous comfortable and useful for our assistance, and the opposition of the enemies of the Covenant and good Cause ; And we do the more highly value and prize the same for that cheerfulness and alacrity which



singularly you did always manifest therein, which did make you to engage not onely your own Means and Estate, but to use your best Credit with others for our supply beyond all men of your condition, whereby the Kingdom hath found your ready help in its greatest necessities: For the which we finde ourselves bound in Honor and Conscience, to see you timeously relieved and satisfied; And albeit your frequent Supplications formerly presented to us and our Orders issued thereupon, have not produced the intended effect of your satisfaction; yet we have so much taken to heart your deep Engagements That we are resolved to take such a solid and real course for your payment, and put such a mark of your merited Reward upon you to be recorded to posterity, as may give you just content, and convince those of foolish rashness, who have so mis-termed your Advancements, being resolved as we do hereby assure, That before dissolving of this Session of Parliament, we shall use all possible means for obtaining money and giving you real satisfaction; which we think is the best way to stop the mouths of your unfriends, and to give your self encouragement: All which are justly deserved by you, and really intended to you by—Your affectionate Friend,

CRAUFORD-LINDSEY, F.P.D., Parl.

To our assured Friend Sir WILLIAM DICK of Braid, Knight.

“ A SHORT STATE of the DEBT due by ENGLAND and SCOTLAND to the Deceased Sir WILLIAM DICK, and of the Securities he hath thereupon—

By good and seasonable services done to England by Sea and other-ways, there is due to the deceased Sir William Dick at Candlemass last past 2 February 165<sup>a</sup><sub>7</sub> of Principal and Interest (all Payments being deducted, and besides great charges and expenses, losses, damages, and ruine in Credit and Estate, by so many disappointments these twelve years past/ the sum of 36,803*L*, 5s. 9d.

For this sum he hath security upon the friendly assistance due by Ordinance of Parliament the 24 June 1642 upon the Chamber of London by Receipt of the 100,000*L* Bill past by King and Parliament in 1641. Secondly upon the Customs, and thirdly by Ordinance of Parliament upon Goldsmiths' hall: By receipt of Papists and Delinquents estates, Sale or Composition thereof (now turned into exchequer) and still standing

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charged upon that Hall, with some scores of orders following thereupon, all confirming the original Ordinance for his payment ; albeit nothing as yet paid thereupon but 1000*L*, 6 August 1653.

By good service done to Scotland the time of their greatest streits and difficulties and in relation to their Union with England, and assistance to their sufferings, there is due to the said Sir William Dick at Candlemass last 165<sup>6</sup>/<sub>7</sub>, of Principal and Interest (all payments being deducted and besides great charges and expenses, losses, damages, and ruine in Credit and Estate, by so many disappointments these sixteen years past/ the sum of 28,131*L*.

For this sum he hath several Bonds conform to the Fundamental Law of that Land.

Secondly, the loan money in the Shire of Southerland, Cathness, Orkney and Tettland.<sup>1</sup>

Thirdly, an Order for 11,000*L* out of all other Loans, with an Order for a Loan upon those who had gotten payment of their first Loan, and the payment thereof to be made to the said Sir William.

Fourthly, Two Months Sess and Excizes of that Nation, after December 1647, and January 1648, Scots style.

Fifthly, 2000*L* stirling monethly out of the Sess and Excizes thereafter, when the Army in Ireland should be supplied by England.

Sixthly. The third part of the Fine and Forfeiture, in that Nation ; and of all these five last Securities, nothing performed.

Seventhly. The Excize of all Wines from 1 November 1649 to 1 November 1651, but interrupted by the Army from England.

And lastly of the Excize of all Wines and Strong-waters after 1 Nov. 1651, till he should be compleatly paid, but interrupted also by the Army from England.

Debt due by England	.	.	36,803 <i>L</i> , 5s. 9d.
Debt due by Scotland	.	.	28,131 <i>L</i> , os. od.
<hr/>			
Sum total	.	.	64,934 <i>L</i> , 5s. 9d.

After the disastrous death of Sir William, his sons scattered, and for a time the Baronetcy of Dick of Braid lay dormant, and

<sup>1</sup> Shetland.

it was not known which of the family were alive.<sup>1</sup> Eventually, in the next century, it fell to Mr James Boswell, younger of Auchinleck, while on his travels in Italy, to discover the representative of Sir William's eldest surviving son, who was acting Consul at Leghorn. How this meeting came about will be shown in due sequence of events.

We pass on now to a letter which is a supplication from one John Campbell, a prisoner of war in England,<sup>2</sup> and must have been dealt with by Sir William when Chief Magistrate.

"Pleas your Godlie Wisdomes to know that I your supplicant John Campbell was taken captive at Musselborough by the English Army the tyme that our Army lay att Leith, I being ane guard. . . . under the command of Collonell Forbes in the said tyme and hev been still keeped in prissone in England ever since (saving only) that within this too months that I have gotten ane Litle Libertie upone my parroll, Yor Wisdomes that I have ane wyff and five children that can noways doe for themselves nayther have I anie Libertie to goe about anie Employment for there help. Under God my humble request is therefor unto your Wisdomes that you wold help my wyff and children and me so by y<sup>or</sup> present supplie as that wee starve not through the want of the creatures, But may have y<sup>m</sup> so farre as they may Insomeways w<sup>t</sup> to serve the Lord aright. And when it sall pleas the Lord to sett me altogether at Libertie, I sall under God stryve nayther to be ane burden myself to y<sup>r</sup> Highness nor yet anie of those above mentioned."

23 Jan<sup>ry</sup>, 1654.

An appended note gives the order for "the sume of ten pounds Scotts moneys" to be conferred "for his present supplie" through

<sup>1</sup> General Patrick Gordon in his Diary (Spalding Club), mentions travelling in Poland in 1654 with John Dick, who had befriended him there. This was a grandson of Sir William.

<sup>2</sup> John Campbell must have been kept a prisoner from the year 1651, when General Monk took Stirling Castle, carried Dundee by assault, and following the instructions of Cromwell, "put all the inhabitants to the sword, in order to strike a general terror into the kingdom." After which, Aberdeen, St Andrews, Inverness, and other towns and forts yielded of their own accord; Argyle made his submissions to the English Commonwealth; and Scotland, which had hitherto maintained its independence, was reduced to total subjection.

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William Patersone, Elder. It is signed by David Milne, probably the Clerk.

The next papers of interest take us from private individuals to the affairs of State.

King Charles II., though a Papist at heart, was thoroughly alive to the necessity of supporting Episcopacy in England, and Presbyterianism in Scotland, and shewed his worldly wisdom in immediately sending a gracious message to the Ministers of Edinburgh, who had it in their power to make much mischief and trouble, promising them his support, though he took the opportunity at the same time of giving them a gentle hint not to meddle with things "without their sphere." The letter is worded in the following manner:—

HIS MAJESTIES GRACIOUS LETTER DIRECTED TO THE PRESBYTERY  
OF EDINBURGH, And by them to be communicated to the  
rest of the Presbyteries of this KIRK. Received the third of  
September 1660.

CHARLES R.,—Trusty and well beloved, We greet you well: By the Letter you sent to Us, with this bearer, Mr *James Sharp*,<sup>1</sup> and by the account he gave of the State of Our Church there, We have received full information of your sense of Our Sufferings, and of your constant Affection and Loyalty to Our Person and Authority. And therefore We will detain him here no longer, (of whose good services We are very sensible) nor will We delay to let you know by him Our gracious acceptance of your Address, and how well We are satisfied with your carriages, and with the generality of the Ministers of *Scotland*, in this time of triall, whilst some, under specious pretences, swerved from that Duty and Allegiance they owe to Us. And because such, who, by the countenance of Usurpers, have disturbed the Peace of that Our Church, may also labour to create Jealousies in the minds of well meaning people, We have thought fit by This, to assure you, that, by the Grace of God,

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards Archbishop Sharp of St Andrews.



## His Majesties Letter to the Presbyteries 11

We do resolve to discountenance Profanity and all Contemners and Opposers of the Ordinances of the Gospel. We do also resolve to Protect and Preserve the Government of the Church of *Scotland*, as it is settled by Law, without violation; and to countenance in the due exercise of their Functions, all such Ministers who shall behave themselves dutifully and peaceably, as becomes men of their Calling. We will also take care, that the Authority and Acts of the Generall Assembly at *St Andrews* and *Dundee*, in the year 1651, be owned and stand in force, until We shall call another Generall Assembly (which We purpose to do assoon as Our Affairs will permit). And We do intend to send for Mr *Robert Dowglasse*, and some other Ministers that We may speak with them in what may further concern the Affairs of that Church. And as We are very well satisfied with your resolution not to meddle without your sphere; So We do expect, that Church-judicatories in *Scotland*, and Ministers there will keep within the compasse of their Station, meddling only with matters Ecclesiastick, and promoting Our Authority and Interest with Our Subjects against all Opposers; And that they will take speciaall notice of all such, who, by preaching or private Conventicles or any other way, transgresse the limits of their Calling, by endeavouring to corrupt the people, or sow seeds of disaffection to Us, or Our Government.

This you shall make known to the severall Presbyteries within that Our Kingdom: And as We do give assurance of Our favour and encouragement to you, and to all honest deserving Ministers there; So We earnestly recommend it to you all, that you be earnest in your Prayers, publick and privat, to Almighty God, Who is Our Rock and Our Deliverer, both for Us and for Our Government, that We may have fresh and constant supplies of his Grace, and the right improvement of all his Mercies and Deliverances, To the honour of his Great Name; and the peace safety and benefit of all Our Kingdoms. And so We bid you heartily farewell. Given at *Our Court at Whitehall the 10 of August 1660*, and of Our Reign the Twelfth Year.—By His Majesties Command,

LAUDERDAIL.

In the King's Speech after the great fire of London to the Members of both Houses of Parliament, he lays special stress on the large Sum of Money raised for the fleet the previous

year, and the need of more to pay off the Ships and also to carry on the War. An account of what the Fleet did then, under command of H.R.H. the Duke of York, in conjunction with the French against the Dutch, is given in a letter from Mr Henry Saville written on board H.R.H.'s ship to the Earl of Arlington, Principal Secretary of State. It was printed for publication in the form of a short pamphlet, probably as a vindication for the policy adopted against the Dutch, into which Charles had been strongly advised by his brother the Duke of York.

Both of these being among the papers, are here reproduced.

HIS MAJESTIES MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH TO BOTH HOUSES OF  
PARLIAMENT, THE ONE AND TWENTIETH DAY OF SEP-  
TEMBER 1666.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I am very glad to meet so many of you together again, and God be thanked for our meeting together in this place;<sup>1</sup> little time hath passed since we were almost in despair of having this place left Us to meet in. You see the dismal Ruines the fire hath made, and nothing but a Miracle of Gods Mercy could have preserved what is left from the same Destruction. I need make no excuse to you for dispensing with your attendance in April. I am confidant you all thanked Me for it; the truth is, I desire to put you to as little trouble as I can, and I can tell you truly, I desire to put you to as little cost as possible; I wish with all my heart that I could bear the whole charge of this War myself, and that my Subjects should reap the benefit of it to themselves; but we have two very great and powerful Enemies, who use all the means they can, fair and foul, to make all the World to concur with them, and the War is more chargeable (by that conjunction) than any body thought it would have been: I need not tell you the success of this Summer, in which God hath given us great Success, and no Question the Enemy hath undergone great losses, and if it had pleased God to have with held his late Judgement by fire, We had been in no ill condition. You have given me large supplies for the carrying on the War, and yet I must tell you, if I had not by

<sup>1</sup> The great fire of London burnt for 3 days and 2 nights, Sept. 2-5.

anticipating my own Revenue raised a very Great Sum of Money, I had not been able to have Set out the Fleet this last Spring, and I have some hope upon the same Credit to be able to pay off the great ships as they come in: You will consider what is to be done next when you are well informed of the expense and I must leave it to your Wisdoms to find out the best Expedients for the carrying on this War, with as little burthen to the people as is possible. I shall add no more than to put you in mind that Our Enemies are very insolent, and if they were able this last year to perswade their miserable People whom they mislead that the Contagion<sup>1</sup> had so wasted the nation and Impoverished Us, that We would not be able to put out any Fleet, how will they be exalted with this last impoverishment of this City and Contemn all reasonable Conditions of Peace; and therefore I cannot doubt but you will provide accordingly."

A TRUE RELATION OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF HIS MAJESTIE'S  
FLEET UNDER THE COMMAND OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
WITH THE DUTCH FLEET MAY 28, 1672. IN A  
LETTER FROM HEN. SAVILLE ESQUIRE, ON BOARD HIS  
ROYAL HIGHNESS, TO THE EARL OF ARLINGTON PRINCIPAL  
SECRETARY OF STATE.

"MY LORD,—The frequent commands I have received from your Lordship for an Account of our late Engagement exact enough to be made publick, do at last end in this following *Narration*, which had been sent you sooner, if the Weather and many other Accidents that Seamen are lyable to, had not hindred us from having such Accounts from every *Flag*, as were necessary to make up one fit for your Lordship and those you intend to impart it to, whom I will suppose to be Landmen, for my own excuse; For if I were to give such a Relation as would fully Satisfie Seamen, the terms themselves concerning Tacking and Wind, &c. without anything material relating to the Matter, would be too voluminous to expect it should find a *Reader* out of *Wapping* or *Rotherith*. All that I pretend to, is Brevity and Truth, for the first, I must make it good as I can, for the other, I have such Witnesses as are unquestionable.

Our Whole Fleet being at Anchor in *Southwold Bay*, taking in Water,

<sup>1</sup> The Plague.

on Tuesday the 28th of *May*, betwixt two and three in the Morning, the Wind E. by N. a small gale, one of our Scouts came in, giving the usual signal of seeing the Enemy; upon which, H.R.H. immediately gave those of weighing Anchor, and getting under Sail, which was performed with all the Speed possible, considering the Short warning; for before Seven the whole *Blew* Squadron were a Head of the *Red*, and the *White* a Stern; in which order, and at which time, the Battle began, the Enemy having the Wind of us. The Squadron under *Bankaert* being the Van of their Fleet, attacked the *French*, which made the Rear of ours, they both separated themselves from both their Fleets, and so continued engaged out of our sight almost the whole day, Sailing to the Southward; At first *Bankaert* came briskly down upon *Monsieur d'Estrees*, he afterwards finding it too hot, kept at a greater distance.

The Earl of Sandwich with the *Blew* Squadron in the Van of our Fleet, was attacked by *Van Ghent* in the Rear of theirs, and endeavouring to get the Wind of the Enemy, found so great opposition, that after having sunk a Man of War which laid him on Board, having above half his men killed, his ship wholly disabled, and having put off two Fireships, was no longer in a condition to put off a third, which burnt her, the only ship we lost the whole day: His Lordship, and all the Officers except Capt. Haddock, being lost with her; of which some few ordinary men that were saved by swimming to our Ships and Boats give us no further Accounts.

The *Henrie*, that was one of her seconds, commanded by Capt. Digby, Son to the Earl of Bristol, having put off several Fireships, most of her Men, her Captain, and almost all her Inferior Officers slain, fell into the hands of the *Dutch*, but was in a little time retaken, and sent safe into Harbor by Capt. Strickland in the *Plimouth*.

Sir Joseph Jordan, Vice Admiral of the *Blew*, pursued the design his Admiral did not live to finish, and succeeded in it, getting the Wind of the Enemy, which he and his Division kept the rest of the day.

The Body of their Fleet commanded by *Monsieur de Ruyter*, attacked the Body of ours, commanded by H.R.H.; *De Ruyter* was accompanied by *Van Esse*; another Admiral, and their Seconds, which all at a convenient distance fired upon the *Prince*, who being to windward of her own Division, could receive little or no assistance from them; the Captain Sir John Cox killed, the Maintop-mast, Flagstaff and Standard, being shot down, and the Ship entirely disabled in three hours time, H.R.H. thought it convenient to change his Ship; so that about ten a Clock being attended



by *Monsieur Blancfors*, myself, Mr Ashton, *Monsieur du Puys* and John Thompson his best Pilot, he went on board the *St Michael*, Sir Robert Holmes Commander, which because of the great smog, could not be seen well enough to be attended to by his Division. About this time, the *Royal Katherine* newly come from the River with fresh men, and wanting many of the conveniences necessary for her defence, was boarded and taken by the Enemy, her Capt. Sir John Chichely being carried prisoner on Board their Ships; but the Enemy leaving no great number of men in her, they were afterwards overpowered by ours, who carried the *Dutch* that had taken her prisoners and the Ship safe into Harbour.

H.R.H. continued on his way, attended by the *Phoenix*; Capt. Le Neue Commander, on Head of him, and the *Fairfax* Capt. Ley Commander, and the *Victory* the Earl of Offery Commander close a Stern, till afterwards Capt. Berry in the *Resolution* and Sir Fretcheville Holles in the *Cambridge*, came also on head of us, but were both soon disabled, the latter having also lost her Commander; the Earl of Offery took their places, the Engagement being very hot all this time. Towards five in the Evening H.R.H. observing his Ship to sail heavily, the *London* and many of the Vice Admirals Division having overtaken the *St Michael*, found upon enquiry that she had six foot Water in the Hold; so that with the same Company be brought thither, except his Pilot, who was killed there, he carried his Standard on Board the *London*, Sir Edward Spragg Commander; where after fighting an hour or two with the Ships to Windward, they were forced to bear down and gave opportunity to the Duke and Sir Joseph Jordan to joyn; at which *de Ruyter* put out a Signal, upon which all his Fleet bore down to joyn the *Zealanders*, who with others, had engaged the French all day, who being to Leeward, did as well as it was possible for them to do with the distance, the *Dutch* being to windward, kept from them. Thus ended the Battle, and the Day; The Duke with about thirty Sail kept to Windward of the *Dutch* all night, standing to the S.E. and found himself still so the next morning, and so continued till about six a Clock; when seeing some Ships a Stern, upon supposition they were the Remains of our Fleet H.R.H. tacked and stood with them, and found them to be as he guest, and the whole French Squadron with them; about seven he returned to his own Ship; as well refitted as was possible by the care of Capt. Narbrough.

About ten the whole Fleet were together, and about twelve we saw the *Dutch* standing after us upon which we tacked having the Weather-gage,

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and stood to them, in hopes of engaging them presently. But when the Van of our Fleet was come up to the Body of theirs, they Tacked, and stood back towards their own Coasts. Notwithstanding which we had certainly engaged them, had we not been prevented about three a Clock by a sudden Fogg, which lasted till six, and though it then cleared up, it blew so fresh, and was so late, and so near their Banks, that we did not think it safe to attack them, but continued sailing by them almost within a Cannon-shot till nine at night; when being within a League of the *Oyster-Bank* off the Coast of Zealand, we Tacked, and stood till Three in the morning to the North west, at w<sup>h</sup> time we stood back till six, to see if we could perceive the Enemy, which not discovering we Anchored till the Afternoon, that we got under sail, and stood back to our own Coast, being very stormy Weather."

Then follows a list of killed and wounded, and after that a list of Volunteers of note, amongst whom we find—

"My Lord Maidstone, Mr Montague, Mr R. Nicholls, Mr Roger Vaughan both of H.R.H.'s bed-chamber, Mr Naper, Brother to a Scots Lord of that Name," etc., etc.

The letter continues—

"The Advantage we have over the Enemy consists in a Man of War taken of 48 Guns. Another taken but afterwards sunk (being Leaky) of 52 Guns. . . . A third sunk by the Earl of Sandwich, A fourth by Sir Edward Spragg both between 50 and 60 Guns. A Fireship taken and we forced them to spend most of the rest, without doing us any damage We have very good grounds to believe we have sunk more, and among the rest a Flagship, but thinking it better to erre on the Modest Side, I onely write Matter of Fact; and least I should break my Word in the other Article (I mean of Brevity) I Humbly kiss your hand, and am, My Lord, Your Lordships most faithful and most obedient Servant—H. SAVILE.

*From on Board the Prince  
near the Middle Ground,  
June 6 1672*

The Writer of this Letter could not think fit to mingle in his Relation, any Expressions of H.R.H.'s Personal Behaviour, because it was prepared for His own Sight; But it is most certain, that never any Prince, or it may

be truly said, any private person, was in an Action of War, exposed to more danger from the beginning to the end of it; His Conduct and Presence of Mind, equalling his fearless Courage, and carrying Him to change His Ship three times, setting up the Royal Standard in each of them, to animate his own Men, and to brave the Enemy.

Among the printed documents inserted at this point occur the following curious Acts, which gave permission to the public for two things.

Firstly, the right of wearing Velvets, Silks, and Satins, which up to that date had been confined to the upper ten exclusively.

Each class having its own particular style of dress, a glance sufficed to determine the status of the wearer.

Secondly, for the importation of French Brandy and Bremer Beer. The former an innovation of considerable importance, whiskey being the only pure spirit distilled in the country, and, in case of illness, by no means of the same value.

#### ACT CONCERNING APPAREL.

At Edinburgh, the 2 of December 1673.

The Kings *Majesty*, considering that some difficulties have occurred, concerning some expressions and qualifications mentioned in the Act made in the last Session of Parliament, concerning Apparel, and that the Manufactur of Whyt Lace or Pearling made of threed (whereby many poor people gain'd their lively-hood) was thereby much prejudged and impaired: For the clearing and remeed whereof, in time coming, His *Majesty* hath thought fit with advice and consent of His Estates of Parliament, to Rescind, Discharge and Annul that part of the aforementioned Act for Apparel concerning the allowance granted to the persons thereby privileged to wear Velvet, Satins and other Silk Stuffs, &c. And Declares, that now and in time coming, it shall be free to all and every person within this Kingdom, to wear all such Silks, Whyt-Lace, Cloaths and others, in the same manner, and als freely, as be the aforesaid Act, they were allowed to be worn by the privileged persons therein mentioned: And that plain Sating Ribbons may be worn upon Apparel in

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the same manner as Taffietie Ribbons, anything in the said Act to the contrare notwithstanding.

Like as His *Majesty*, with advice foresaid, doth hereby Ratifie and renew the aforesaid Act, past in the last Session of Parliament, concerning Apparel, in all other Heads, Clauses and Articles thereof, which are not by this Act innovat or discharged.

### ACT CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION AND EXCISE OF BRANDY.

At Edinburgh, the 1 of December 1673.

The King's *Majesty*, having, upon good consideration, thought fit to allow the Importation of Brandy, and Mum or Bremer-beer within this Kingdom; Doth therefore with advice and consent of His Estates of Parliament, Rescind and Annul all Acts of Parliament and Privy Council, Proclamations and other Warrands prohibiting the same. Like as His *Majesty*, with advice foresaid, Appoints every tun of imported Brandy to be lyable in payment of six score pounds Scots for custome, without any defalcation, and ilk Scots pynt<sup>1</sup> of the same Brandy to be lyable in the payment of six shillings Scots for excise: And every barrel of the aforesaid Mum, not exceeding twelve gallons, to be lyable in thretty shillings Scots of custome, and als much for excise, which excise of Brandy and Mum is to be raised in the several Shires and Burghs, where the same shall be retailed, by tapping and selling in smals, and employed for the proportional relief of the annuity of Excise payable by the said Shires and Burghs, and this custome and excise to be lifted and paid conform to the Laws and Acts, made concerning Custome and Excise *respective*.

Edinburgh, Printed by *Andrew Anderson*,

Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. Anno 1673.

Here also we have a Proclamation, issued in June 1680, declaring RICHARD CAMERON and several others "Rebels and Traitors," a large reward being offered for them dead or alive.

Richard Cameron, as is well known, was a notable preacher and leader of a large body of Covenanters who clung rigidly to the tenets of John Knox, and looked upon the Stuart family as

<sup>1</sup> A Scots pynt is equal to 3 pints imperial measure.



nearly allied to his Satanic Majesty. For months at a time he and his followers led a wandering life on the hills, hunted from place to place by the soldiers, but, in spite of the large sum offered for his capture, always eluding them, owing to the high estimation in which he was held. Countless were his escapes, but so lightly did he treat his pursuers, and so secure was he, when almost in the midst of his enemies, that while a sign would have sufficed to point him out to them, even those who differed from him in point of doctrine would have scorned to raise a finger against this man of God. Knowledge as to his whereabouts could only be obtained through a few low-born, thieving spies, who lived on the proceeds of such information, and it was by the aid of one of these that he was eventually captured, taken to Edinburgh Castle, and condemned to death. From this he escaped when actually on the scaffold, by means of a pardon obtained by a clever ruse on the part of his daughter, with whom and another he escaped to the Netherlands before the trick was discovered.

The proclamation declares that

"Mr RICHARD CAMERON (with others whose names are mentioned at length) did upon the twenty two of *June* enter within the Burgh of Sanquhar, with drawn Swords and Pistols in their hands and after a solemn procession through the Town, did draw up at the Cross and published and affixed upon the Cross and other publick places thereof, a most Treasonable and unparralled Paper," &c.

For which conduct all Sheriffs, Stewarts, Bailiffs and Magistrates were ordered to institute a search for the above named.

"And for the better encouragement of such as shall bring in the said Traitors dead or alive the Apprehender of Mr Richard Cameron shall as a reward have five thousand Merks."

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Each of the others mentioned by name have sums placed on their heads according to their status, those who are considered least mischievous, as merely followers, being priced at One Thousand Merks. This blood money was "to be instantly paid by the Commissioners of Our Thesaurary."

The knowledge that the "Thesaurary" was generally empty must have been a comforting one to the Rebels in question, and doubtless added to the boldness of their behaviour.

## Chapter II.

The Duke of York in Edinburgh—Burning Effigies—Prestonfield burnt by the Mob—Parliament opened by the Duke—He goes to Newmarket—Wreck of H.M.S. Gloster—Petitions—The Countryman's Complaint and Advice to the King—Letters to Sir James Dick—The Duchess of Lauderdale—Good Hansome Pictures—Strange Reelings in the Kingdom—Destruction of Churches.

[1680—1688]





## Chapter II.

IN spite of all disasters the Dick family do not seem to have lost courage, but must have set bravely to work to retrieve their fortunes, for we find Sir William's grandson, Sir James Dick, called to London in 1680 by King Charles II. to attend his brother the Duke of York to Edinburgh.

Sir James was at that time Lord Provost of Edinburgh, to which office was attached that of a Privy Councillor,<sup>1</sup> a dignity which had to be supported with great magnificence and expense, and we learn that the Lord Provost's coach being one of only five or six in the whole city, the Peers and Members of Parliament "marched on horseback in great form."<sup>2</sup>

The Duke of York's arrival in Edinburgh was the signal for much mobbing and rioting among the inhabitants, the disrespect being aimed at the Duke and his Catholic attendants. This, Sir James, as Chief Magistrate, had great difficulty in quelling, as will be seen from the following extracts from his "Copie book of Letters," which was kept by his Secretary, Mr George Watson.

To Mr PATRICK ELLIS. 28th December 1680.

"As for news—upon Saturday last being Yule day the Colledginers would burn the Effigees of the Pope. It was designed by the Boys to burn the same at the Cross, but fearing opposition, on a sudden by ten or twelve of their number, it was brought to Blackfriars wyndhead and there burnt quickly and so they stole away. This act was offensively

<sup>1</sup> The executive authority of the State was largely in the hands of the Privy Council, which was independent of the Parliament; its members were elected by the Sovereign, and they sat in the Royal Palace.

<sup>2</sup> There were only two streets wide enough for vehicular traffic.

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taken seeing it was never done before here, and to be done here and at this time was looked to be in contempt of his Royal Highness which in general was thought ill manners. There were some of the Boys imprisoned but let out in a day or two."

Then comes a letter received by Sir James on the subject, a facsimile of which is given, but as the writing, to those unaccustomed to the style, is not very easy to read, the following is a transcription:—

"To the Right Honorable SIR JAMES DICK."

MY LORD,—Immediately after dinner the Advocat sent his Servant to y<sup>r</sup> town hous and myn desiring to speak with us. Accordingly I went and he told me that this forenoone the Courtts of the Senett Councill had voted and caused in the affirmative that upon yesternights miscarriage of the Schoallers the Colledge gates should be closed up. Also told me lykewise that he went to the Ducke and spok to him sitting at Dinner which he used not to doe. I sold furth some reasones to him that it was verrie inconvenient to doe that ffor the scholars craved no better than to be Debarred from coming to Colledge. About 4 of the Clock this night the secret Councill at y<sup>r</sup> Sitting sent ffor the baillies who compeiring ye Chancellor told them that upon ye account of ye severall disorders comitted be the scholars and oysr that they intendit to take a sevear course with them. Bot desired to know of ye baillies what expedients they would propose. Bot hearing you lop (lordship) was out of town at Nicolsons they desyred that your lop should be made acquainted and sent for to be here tomorrow be 10 of the Clock to meitt with a Committee of y<sup>r</sup> lops for ye effect. These are in obedience to their lops and the baillies commands to intimate to y<sup>r</sup> lordship to be here tomorrow. Against which tyme when your lop will be attended by ye baillies and by your Lordships verrie humble Servant JA ROCHEID.

Sir James then writes to his brother William, to inform him of the burning of Prestonfield, his country house, by the mob.

My Lord

Immediatly after dinner the advocat sent his servant to you to hear and inquire  
desiring to speak with us, accordingly I went and he told me that this  
fore noon the counsellors of the secret counsell had voted and carried in  
the affirmative that upon Yesternights miscarriage of the scholars the  
colledge gate should be closed up, He told me Lydenhaye that he went  
to the Duke and spoke to him sitting at dinner which he used not to do  
and he did find some reasons to him that it was better moribund  
to do that. For the scholars creabed no better then to be dobarred from  
coming to the colledge. About 4 of the clock this night the secret  
counsell at yd sitting sent for the bailles who some tyme yd chanceller  
told them that upon yd account of yd severall disorders comitted by the  
schollers and of the intent to take a favour comf with them. Both  
desyred to know of yd bailles what expedients they would propose. Both  
desyred yd to be out of town at Nicolson they desired that yd to  
be acquiesced and sent for to be here to morrow be 10 of the clock to morrow  
th a comittie of yd tops for yd effort. These are in obedience to their  
desires and the bailles commands to intreat to yd to be here to morrow  
at yd time where yd tops will be allent to yd bailles & by

Your Lordships verie humble  
servant  
Ja. Croker





# Burning of Prestonfield House 25

TO MR WILLIAM DICK. 1 Feby 1681.

"LOVING BROTHER,—As for news—my House of Prestonfield<sup>1</sup> standing furnisht as it was in the summer was upon the 11th of last month burnt all to ashes which has been wilfully done by some malicious Persons. There was upon Yule day a design by the Colledginers to burn the Pope's Effigy through our streets the like was never done before.

It was looked upon by our Nobility and Secret Counsellors to be in contempt of their Royal Highnesses because they are Popish and because they were not so assisted by the Magistrates as they expected they put it through the Town that they should burn my House of Prestonfield which accordingly is fallen out. The Secret Counsell have emitted a Proclamation that whoever will discover the actors thereof shall have 2000 merks and a remission to the discoverer providing he discover his associates. The Secret Counsell makes it their work to examine but as yet has come no length. The Colledge Gates are shut by order of Counsell but I am endeavouring to get off the restraint which I hope to get done. We live in a bad time. God help it."<sup>2</sup>

The same to Mr ELLIS. 12 Feby 1681.

"As for news I cannot but think when I see your printed Papers from London that you have Persons there whose Trade is to contrive Lies. It occasions good sport here for the Duke reads them and tells them at Court time with great pleasure. It is prented that the Duke caused burn my House, that I have got 1100 Pounds and that the Duke had got a Barrell of Powder out of the Castle, which is all as true as that I am at London at writing hereof. I am not the first that has been abused that way. It is a subject not worthy of my trouble to

<sup>1</sup> Usually named Priestfield at this date.

<sup>2</sup> Mr William Baird, author of the "Annals of Duddingston," has by his researches been able to throw some light on the early Proprietors of Priestfield. According to him Priestfield, the Grange, Spittleton, &c. belonged to the Monks of the Monastery of Harehope or Holm, near Carlisle, and after the War of Independence were taken from them by Robert the II. and given to his son, the Earl of Carrick, by whom Priestfield was afterwards disposed to the Wardlaws of Riccarton and Warriston. Cardinal Wardlaw, Bishop of Glasgow in 1368-1389, was Secretary to King David II., and uncle of the Andrew Wardlaw who first obtained the property. The Wardlaws seem to have held the lands until 1509, when Walter Chepman, the celebrated printer, became the owner. From him it passed to the Hamiltons (Earls of Haddington), from whom, again, it was purchased by the Dicks, in whose family it has remained to the present time.

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defend against. As for my being in a Tavern that night my house was burnt it is true for I was in Patrick Steels with the rest of the Magistrates and after eight rang a gentleman came and called me aside in the Room and shewed the Condition of my House being burning with great prudence, but before he had well spoke there was a number of Persons of Quality both came and sent to know the truth which obliged me to stay to entertain discourse with them about half an hour and then I went home and found my house (in Edin<sup>r</sup>) so full of Friends and neighbours with my wife and children that I wished to have been in some place of retirement for both the subject was unpleasant and a Person is obliged at such times to carry prudently and discreetly. And if I had a hand in destroying the same I would have been such a friend to myself as to have taken out the best of my plenishing, but not one farthings worth was saved, all was burnt. The Arras Hangings and Carpets with the new Peutter which Mrs Rothead bought for me at London and all other furniture belonging to a furnished house. As to finding out the Actors there is a Coalman that lives in Niddry about 2 miles from Prestonfield who was going home and depones that he did see a number of young men with unlighted Torches or Dinks about a Ridge length from my house who had with them a blind Bonnet<sup>1</sup> which is now judged to have been designed to set fire to their combustibles. And before the said coalman had come home he looked back and did see my house all on fire and told some Persons that he met with, upon which they have deponed that it was the Collidginers had done it.

But as yet the particular persons are not discovered. Yea I am so much denied as to advantage that I should be sorry to know such Wretches and that any such should suffer death for my House it would be no pleasure to me for their loss of a good conscience is of greater moment than my loss which I hope shall be found no great want in my Testament."

Sir James' town house at that time, appears to have been in the *Land Market*, although later his letters were addressed to the *Lawn Market*; this residence was probably one and the same, as this name for the Lawn Market is found in several old maps and histories of the city. It was from this house that his daughter,

<sup>1</sup>Dark lanthorn.

Lady Cunyngham of Caprington was married in 1696, when as will be seen by the annexed account, precautions against light-fingered gentry, were as necessary for the protection of wedding gifts as they are now. This account was evidently made out by the House Steward or Butler, and paid by Sir James' Secretary, Mr George Watson.

Account paid out By me Johnston in the tym of my lay (lady)  
Keprintengs wedding

	lb.	s.	drs.
Itt paid to the sentrie that stood keping the door	00	14	6
Itt paid to the muck men for making clean the	}	14	6
close . . . . .			
Itt disBursed to the poor folk . . . . .	2	08	0
	<hr/>		
	£03	17	0

Received from Geo. Watson the Above three pound seventeen shilings  
Scots Be me WM. JOHNSTON.

The following is an extract from a letter in Sir James' own writing, the spelling being equally original.

"Edin 6 Apryll 1680"

"Upon Seturday last Mr James Ruchheid of Inverleith, our towne Clerck sett out from this in Coch with his Leady and on of his doughters Mrs Jennitt (Janet), with Edward Cleghorn Goldsmith and Inverleiths man Hendrie Kinloch all fyve in on Coch, as lyckwyse upon horse in Companie with them ther is—Kinloch and—Kinloch, which is to goe to Yorck and ther to tak Coch straight for London which I suppose iff ther helth continow will be with you the hinder end of next weick."

By the following letter from the Bishop of Edinburgh, it would appear that Sir James was inclined to exceed his authority in matters concerning the Churches prerogative, which calls forth a mild remonstrance from the Bishop, who begs him to leave such matters in Episcopal hands, that no mistakes should occur betwixt them.

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FOR MY LORD PROVOST OF EDINBURGH.    EDIN. 2 MARCH 1681.  
Thes ar—

MY LORD,—“I am surprised with what I hear concerning the intention for settling your Ministers it is such that I cannot comply with I have ever been tender of the Priviledges of the Citie and of your lop<sup>s</sup> interest, and I expect your lop will doe nothing to the prejudice of the rights of the Bishop of Edin in my person. its the right of ye good towne to present Ministers for they are patrons, but it belongs to the Bishop to transplant them from one parish to anoyr, and to order them to preach and to exercise their ministrie according to Ecclesiasticall rules. This I doe expect to be preserved entire in my right without being encroached upon by anie method—lest your lop sould proceed this day at yor Towne Council to order the settlement of the Ministers I have sent this lyne to prevent mistakes which I hope sall not fall in betwixt yor lop and—My Lord Yor humble servant,

Jo: Edinburgen.

On the 28th July 1681 the Duke of York as high Commissioner opened Parliament in Edinburgh, when the Duke declared his Majesty's pleasure to Constitute Lord Hado President of the Session, Lord Chancellor of Scotland, the Earl of Queensborough Lord Treasurer and the Earl of Perth Lord Justice Clerk.

That Sir James' attendance on the Duke was still required is shewn by the subsequent letters to Mr Ellis to whom he writes

Edinr 7th March 1682

The Duke of York having parted from this yesterday in one of the Kings Yachts for Yarmouth in order to see his Majesty at Newmarket the same has oblidged me this day to take journey by land for Newmarket at which place I will stay a little time and then I resolve to come up to London. In the meantime I desire you to take an Convenient Chamber near you.”

The next letter gives an account of his return with the Duke by sea, and the sinking of the Gloster Man of War, while they were on board, and their narrow escape from drowning :—



EDIN<sup>R</sup> 9 MAY 1682.

"Upon Sunday at 8 o'clock at night His Royal Highness with his retinue arrived safe here there being a most sad disaster upon the Saturday before. At seven o'clock in the morning the Man of War called the 'Gloster' Sir John Berrie Captain wherein His Highness was and a great Retinue of Noblemen and Gentlemen whereof I was one, the said ship did strike in pieces and did wholly sink in a Bank of Sand called the Lemon and are about 12 leagues from Yarmouth.

This was occasioned by the wrong Calcul and ignorance of a pilot and put us all in such consternation that we knew not what to do The Duke and all that were with him being in Bed when she first struck. The Helm having broke the man was killed by the force thereof at the first shock.

When the Duke got his Clothes on and enquired how things stood she had nine feet of water in her hold and the sea fast coming in at the gun ports, the seamen and passengers were not at command, every man studying his own safety, this forced the Duke to go out at the large window of the Cabin where his little boat was ordered quietly to attend him lest the Passengers and seamen should have thronged so in upon him as to overset his Boat. This was accordingly so conducted as that none but Earl Windsor and the President of the Session with two of the Bed Chamber men were with him. They were forced to draw their Swords to hold people off. We seeing they were gone did cause tackle out with great difficulty the Ships Boat wherein the Earl of Perth got and then I went by jumping off the shrouds, the Earl of Middleton immediately after me did jump in upon my shoulders withal their came the Laird of Touch with several others besides the seamen that were to row w<sup>h</sup> was thought a sufficient number for her loading considering there was going so great a sea occasioned by the wind at N.E. And we seeing that at the Duke's Boat side there was one overwhelmed by reason of the greatness of the sea w<sup>h</sup> drowned the whole in her except two men whom we saw riding on her keel. This made us desire to be gone. But before we were loose there leapt from the shrouds about 20 or 24 seamen in upon us which made all the spectators and ourselves to think that we would sink, and all having given us over for lost did hinder an hundred more from leaping in upon us. With those that were left were Lord Roxburgh and Laird Hopton and Mr

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Litteldell. Roxburgh's servant Doctor Livingston and the President of the Session's man and my servant, they all being at the place when I jumped would not follow because it seems they concluded it more safe to stay in the vessel than to expose themselves to our hazard all which Persons in an instant were washed off and drowned.

There will be perished in this disaster above 200 Persons, for I reckon there were 250 Seamen and I am sure there were 80 noblemen gentlemen and their servants. My Computation was that there were 330 in all of which I cannot learn that 130 are found alive.

Our difficulties and hazards that were in this Boat were wonderful. If the rest had not thought us dead men I am sure many more would have jumped in upon us. We were so throng we had no room to stand and when we were forcing ourselves from the ship she being sinking by degrees all the time and besides the surfs were so boisterous that we were like to be struck in pieces upon the Wreck so sinking.

It was not but with great difficulty that we forced out the Boat from the Ship and when we came to row to the nearest Yacht the Waves were such we being overloaded that every moment we thought to have been drowned and being about midway to the Yachts there were a great many swimming for their lives who caught a dead grip of our Boat holding up their heads above the water and crying out for Help which hinderance was put of and their hands loosed by telling them they would both lose their own lives and us. Yet this would not do to make them lose their grips till they were forced off by severals in our Boat except one that took hold of me whom I caused catch into the Boat lest I should have been pulled out by him. And when it pleased God to bring us wonderfully to one of the Yachts side being not less than a quarter of a mile distant from our Ship they not daring to come nearer by reason of the Sand Bank upon which we were wrecked. And if we had not shot off guns showing them our distress the other Men of War that were immediately following would have met with the same disaster but they immediately bore off. The four Yachts came as near as they could and put off their Boats to help us. But all that could be done could not prevent the great loss of about 200 men. I was in my gown and slippers lying in bed when she first struck and did escape in that condition and when unexpectedly and wonderfully we came to the Yachtside called Cap<sup>t</sup> Sanders we were like to be crushed to pieces by it which by reason of the great sea was like to run us down. At last a Rope was cast which was so managed that we were brought to

the lea side then every man climbed for his life and so did I, taking hold of a rope and made shift upon the side till I came within men's reach and was hauled in. I then looked back but could not see one bit of our great Ship above water but about a Scots ell long of the Staff upon which the Royal Standard stood for with her sticking she had come off the Sand Bank w<sup>h</sup> was but three fathoms water upon each side when she struck and so did sink in the deepest place. Now if she had continued upon the three fathoms and broke in pieces there all would have had time to have saved themselves. But such was the misfortune that she was wholly overwhelmed and all washed into the sea that were upon her Decks. There would have been relief by Boats if she had stood half an hour longer. So to conclude this melancholy account all the Above Persons our countrymen that were of Respect are as I have told. Of Englishmen of Respect there were lost Lord Obrien and Lord Hyde's brother who was Lieutenant of the Ship and a number of Noblemen and Gentlemens Servants which I cannot name. I can hardly speak with any that were aboard with the Duke but that they have lost servants more or less.

God made me thankfull for the wonderfull deliverance.

I believe I shall have trouble now that both my Lord Roxburgh and his man are lost to recover payment of these Bills.

All my Clothes and Papers are lost having nothing saved but the twenty guineas w<sup>h</sup> were in my little Pocket with my Watch and the little Box with my Wife's ring and necklace. But for my papers I rolled them up in a Handkerchief and put them off me so that both the King's letter for the £120 sterling and the accounts I filled with you are gone.

Yesterday his Royal Highness called the King's Counsel and there the King's will was declared as to his Chancellor who was President of the Session my Lord Queensbury for Treasurer and Lord Perth Justice General w<sup>h</sup> Queensbury had before. Notwithstanding the disaster His Highness met with in this last sea voyage yet He is within five or six days with his Dutchess and the Lady Anne to take shipping for London."

Amongst the Petitions of this period there is one to "His Royal Highness the Duke of Albanie, His Majesties Commissioner and the honorable Estates of Parliament from the tanners of Edinburgh and others," which bears no date, and another from the King's tradesmen. The latter complain that since His Majesties'

Grandfather succeeded to the Kingdom of England, the trade that formerly was theirs has passed away, but that the taxes and burdens remain the same, and petition accordingly to be relieved. This memorial is dated on the back 1681. Another of the same date is from the Shoemakers of Edinburgh as to the importing of foreign leather, which seems also to have been a sore point with the Tanners. Then the "Merchant retailers, That is such as retail Cloathe Stuffles and other merchandise," wish to have a Public Hall for their own use, for which they give their reasons at length.

These and others shew the style of business daily transacted by H.R.H. his Majesties Commissioner, the Lord Provost, and Parliament of Edinburgh, besides political affairs such as dealing with the turbulent Lords from the North who were brought "into Ward" under the Privy Councillors.

Judging from a letter to Sir James, as Lord Provost, dated Edinburgh, 7th February 1681, a complaint had been made to the City captains, that the workmen of his Majesties Mint were exempt from the task of watching at night. As they had separate trades as well as the above occupation, the other citizens had evidently taken umbrage at the favour shewn at their expense, and the City Captains address him on the matter in the following manner:—

"MY LORD PROVOST,—The list of Workemen belonging to his Majesties Mint being shoun to and perused by the Cittie Cap<sup>ts</sup> they find severall of them Great Traiders and partakers of Burgher traid Yea some of them far beyond many other in traid that maks no scrupell In watching wairding and contributing to other publick Impositions and particularly this hear below-mentioned with the nature of ther Employments who we Judge that when ther Employments is made known to the Generall of his Majesties Mint that he is so Just that he will not protecke them from bearinge Neighbourly Dewtie so long as they are so Considerably partakers of profit by Publicke traid not bot that the Cap<sup>ts</sup> are most



willing to Excuse them at any tyme they have any afairs to doe that Concerns the Mint House, and at all tyme to Excuse the ordinary Labourers, for it is Judged hard to put thos who have Employments in the Ceitie (tho Listed in the Mint Roll) In A Better Condition then other of his Majesties Masters of work Who tho they have patins for beinge free of all publicke burthins yett are made Lyable for ther burger traid and its hard to make one man Contribute or do Dewtie for Another who is fare Aibeller to bear his owne Burthine, Its therfor the wholl Cap<sup>ts</sup> Requeists for the satisfaction of the Nighbours that your Lo/ will Represent this to the Generall of his Majesties Mint that his Lo/ may know the trew state of this mens traids, And if then his Lo/ desyers so considerabl traiders to be Exeamd, from that Nighbourly dewtie of watchinge which Most of the Nighbours doeth Reflecke upon, We will with all submission (tho Imposable to satisfie the neighbours that beirs the Burthine) Give obedience to your Lo/ Commands.

Annexed are a few examples taken from the lists given by the "Cittie Capts."—

"John Eadie he keeps A publick hous and his wyfe sells severall Commodities and he keeps two houses at Least he proteckes A Man that Dwells in one of them by ouneing him and hinders him from doeinge dewtie als weel as himself.

John Lockie is A great f'forier and keeps open Chop and servants in the Cannigait head.

William Glen is A Publick tavern keeper and A Common Cook and hath considerable Employment.

James Thompson he keeps open Chop and hath A considerable traid in selling and cuttinge tobaco &c.

Patrick Sponer A ffreeman taylor he hath A verey considerable traid and constant traid and keeps many Jurnamen and settis out Chamers at the Cross.

Thomas Strauchan is A piriwickmaker, etc.

The following two broadsides are of sufficient interest to reprint here. They are marked "Reprinted in the year 1681."

THE COUNTRYMANS COMPLAINT AND ADVICE  
TO THE KING.

"We only can admire those happy times  
 Of Innocence, unskilled in Laws and Crimes  
 When Gods were known by Blessings, own'd by Prayer,  
 And 'twas no part of Worship for to swear :  
 Clearer than Fountains, and more free than those,  
 Impartial Truth they all to each disclose.  
 To hear, and to believe were strictly joyn'd,  
 And Speech thus answer'd what it first design'd.  
 But Oh unhappy state of Humane kind !  
 Nought dreadful now our Awe, or Faith can bind.  
 Vows and Religions are but bare pretence,    }  
 Oaths are found out to shackle Innocence,    }  
 And Laws must serve a perjur'd Impudence. }  
 Tumults address for Blood, Witness for Hire deceives  
 And Judge is forc'd to Sentence what he ne'er believes.  
 All Truth and Justice, blushinglly withdraw,  
 Leaving us nothing but the Form of Law :  
 Whereby Rogues profligate, and hardned in their Vice  
 Proscribe all Loyal men, as factions raise their price.  
 Poor Land ! whose Folly to swift Ruine tends,  
 Despis'd by Foes, unaided by its Friends.  
 In vain does Heaven her Fiery Comets light,  
 We stifle th' Evidence, and still grope in night :  
 Baffled by Fools, betray'd by perjur'd Knaves,  
 Rather than Subjects, we'll be branded Slaves :  
 And by a vain pursuit of airy Bliss,  
 Forefeit Substantial real Happiness ;  
 Change Monarchy (from all oppression free)    }  
 Religion, and its Native Purity,                    }  
 True Freedom, without Lawless Liberty :        }  
 For thousand Masters, worst of Tyranny,            }  
 For frantick Zeal, formal Hypocrisie,            }  
 For Licence to rude Rabbles, Hell and Slavery. }  
 And all this wrought by old known Cheats and Rooks,  
 Gods ! to be twice Cajol'd by Cants and Looks !

Sots, worse than Brutes to run into that Net  
We see, and know for our destruction set !”

## TO THE KING

“ Arise, O thou once Mighty Charles, arise,  
Dispel those mists that Cloud thy piercing Eyes ;  
Read o’er thy Martyr’d Fathers Tragick Story,  
Learn by his Murder, different ways to glory.  
How Fatal ’tis by him is understood,  
To yield to Subjects, when they thirst for Blood, }  
And cloak their black designs with Publick Good. }  
As thou art God-like by thy *Pity*, Show  
That thou art God-like by thy *Justice* too :  
Lest we should count thy greatest Virtue, Vice,  
And call thy Mercy, servile Cowardise.  
Of Old, when daring Giants skal’d the Skie, }  
The King of Gods ne’re laid his Thunder by. }  
To hear Addresses for their Property.  
But quell’d *His* Rebels by a stroke Divine  
And left example how to deal with *Thine*.”

The next two letters are addressed to Sir James Dick, late  
Provost of Edinburgh, and relate to the Mercantile treaties  
which it was then sought to bring about with France.

Paris 3d february  
1683.

SIR,—I received your letter at the same time when my Lord Preston  
had the information concerning our nations privileges in ffrance, he  
resolved ever since the business was first proposed to him to have an  
opportunity to show his affection to our Kingdome for my part I shall  
think myself very happy to be able to serve soe many honest gentilmen  
as are most concern’d in this affaire but will be extremely satisfied and  
proud to doe anything for the interest of my country. What Steps  
shall be made in the business I shall give you a particular account of  
from time to time, and labour by all means to deserve the kindness  
that is intended me, and to persuade you that I am Sir your most  
humble and most obedient servant, J. DEANES,

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Whitehall 20 february

82 & 83

SIR,—My Lord of Preston having resolved to take all possible ways to recover our nations priviledges in France and particularly those of the Marchants, thought that I could in noe place be more usefull then in London to press the business with the French Ambassadour (without whose advice and consent noething is done in France in relation to business of our nations) therefore he sent me hither that I might from time to time let his R. Highness and the Ambassador know what steps were made in the affaire, and accordingly thoo nights agoe My Lord having written this letter inclosed to me with a coppie of a memorial already given in by him about the business I shoud them to the Duke who still keeps the memorial or else I had transcribed it and sent you alsoe a coppie of it the great advantage My Lord will have in this business will be that Mr de Croisy (who is Secretary of State for forrein affaires being brother to Mr Colbert and consequently an ennemy to our Country upon the account of their genealogy which was formerly refused them from thence) will be very hard to be delt with and yet there is a necesstety upon My Lord to negociate with this man the King himself suffering noe forrein minister to speak to him about business, to obviat this difficulty I know noe other way but to procure from the King and Duke besides the instructions that are already given My Lord, particularly letters for the King of France which he delivring out of his own hande may upon that occasion take opportunity of reasoning the affaire with his Majesty who I believe will be found easier to grant favours or justice than his ministers. this I resolve to propose to his Highness when ever I shall see conveniency and shall let you know what I can procure in it.

After you have perused the inclosed be pleased to send it me back and rest assured of all my endeavours as well in this generall concern as on all privat occasions that shall offer of proving myself to be Sir y<sup>rs</sup>. etc.,

J. DEANS.

The next letter from Sir James is to his brother Mr W. Dick, and is dated

Edin. 25 Sept. 1684.

“There was an order from his Majesty’s Counsel for apprehending the Laird of Polewarth as suspected of having accession to the late Plot



against his Majesty. Upon hearing thereof he fled from his own house— But I hear he sent a letter to the Chancellor shewing that he had got notice thereof but was resolved not to expose his Person again, having been put in twice formerly his Body could not endure it longer But he would find Bail to answer.

This I suppose does not please the Statesman."

To the same,

Edinburgh, 30th Jany., 1686.

"Our uncle Sir James Rothead is come home from London in one of the Kings Yachts with the Dutchess of Lauderdale.

He is now in a fair way to be returned to his old place of Clerk of Edin<sup>r</sup> having brought down His Majesty's Recommendation w<sup>h</sup> will bring him to his own."

In reference to the Duchess of Lauderdale, there is a letter to Mr Patrick Ellis, dated 9th October 1680, in which he says

"The good Town is to pay to my Lady Dutchess of Lauderdale fifteen hundred pounds sterling presently as part of what we are to give for our new gift so that the same must be remitted from this to London."

For what reason the good Town was to pay her Grace this sum, he does not explain, nor where the money was to come from, a problem not easily solved, considering the state of the public finances. Five years later he writes with his own hand and in his most remarkable spelling,

25 Juny 1685

"the truth is the staitt of the affairs of this countrie has beine such for this longe tyme past thatt it putt a stop to the endinge of all particular affairs.

Butt blised be God I hopp itt is now att ane end, ffor the Errell of Arguill with his assistance heir for Scotland is now bett, and the said Arguill is now prisoner in the Castell of Edinburgh with other of his prin<sup>cl</sup>e asociatts. Ther is one (Kambell?) of whom noe question you have frequently hard off, would have laid waitt the leaitt King and this present Kings coch coming from Newmarket to Whaithall with a desyne to heave seized on their persons I say the s<sup>d</sup> villane is tacken with Argyll

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and is now prisoner heir, soe that when the Duck of Monmouth, who is actually in rebellion in England, is vanquished and o'come which I hop to heir off shortly, we shall then by a probability heave ane future quietness and pease."<sup>1</sup>

While "the Duke of York acted as Commissioner, a test oath was framed to be taken by all people in public trusts as an assurance of their loyalty, but it turned out to be such a curious jumble of contradictory obligations that many refused to take it. The Earl of Argyle, son of the late Marquis,<sup>2</sup> would only receive it with an explanation which was held to be an act of treason and he was accordingly tried and condemned to death."<sup>3</sup> He, however, managed to make good his escape from Edinburgh Castle disguised as a page, and remained at large until 1685, when landing in Scotland with armed followers, he was seized, tried and executed on the 30th June, in the same manner as his father. It is his second imprisonment which is referred to in the above letter.

It may here be mentioned that Lord Neil Campbell, second son of the Marquis of Argyll, had a daughter named Susan, who married John Stewart of Urrard, Perthshire; and that the owner of the documents which are here printed is connected with this family by the marriage of Sir W. H. Dick Cunyngham to Susan Alston Stewart of Urrard;<sup>4</sup> and further that to this early connection with the Argylls the Stewarts of Urrard owe it, that there has come down to the present generation what is known

<sup>1</sup> Monmouth's rebellion ended at Sedgemoor on 6th July, 1685, and he was beheaded on the 15th of that month.

<sup>2</sup> Executed by the Maiden in Edinburgh in 1661, his head being afterwards set on the Tolbooth where that of the Marquis of Montrose had also been placed.

<sup>3</sup> *Domestic Annals*. R. Chambers.

<sup>4</sup> Great-granddaughter and namesake of Susan Campbell.

## Duke Gordon, Governor of the Castle 39

as the "Argyll Bible." This book was used by the unfortunate Marquis during his imprisonment and up to the hour of his execution, the passages he read being marked with blood obtained by pricking his finger. This interesting relic is now in the possession of Miss Alston Stewart, together with some other books and articles of furniture belonging to Lord Neil.

The next reference to public affairs is in a letter to Mr Stephen Ernault.

Edin<sup>r</sup>. December 1686.

"Sir George Lockhart is still President but Sir George Mackenzie and Lord Pitmedden were removed from their offices about the time of last sitting of our Parliament, and it is not thought they will be again admitted. There is none as yet put in their offices.

I perceive you intend not the Presents of Fruits to any Persons that are in disgrace.

Duke Gordon was long ago installed Governor of our Castle. He is also admitted one of the Lords of the Treasury and secret Counsell. Also the Laird of Niddry is one of the Privy Counsell."

It may be well to remind the reader that the above appointments were to the Scottish Parliament, for though England and Scotland were united under one king in 1603, the two Kingdoms continued to have separate Governments for more than a hundred years. Also, that when King Charles the II. came to the throne in 1660, he summoned a Parliament in Scotland and left it to them to examine the conduct of his subjects; and that before long not only was Episcopacy received in Scotland, but ministers went to London and were ordained, Bishops were consecrated, the Scottish Privy Council forbade all Meetings of Synods and Presbyteries until authorised by the Bishops, and the Parliament, rescinding the Solemn League and Covenant, declared the power of the Militia to be solely in His Majesty, and condemned the

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act of January 1647 which related to the sale of the late King's person. The disadvantage of the Scottish Parliament is pointed out by Sir Alexander in his Memoir, where he says :—

“ It proved rather unfortunate to Scotland that its Sovereign and the considerable persons of the nobility and others should reside in England, besides the jarring interests of different forms of religion, different laws, different Channels of Commerce, nay different idioms and pronounciation of language and indeed inequality of fortunes and estates in money and land, altogether considered, created such differences of opinions as greatly distressed the lesser Kingdom and made its Parliament which generally speaking was no more than a pompous parade of a few days yearly who did little business and greatly fermented the long civil war which before and during Oliver Cromwell's time under the pretence of the defence of liberty by its barbarous licentiousness promoted the horrors of rebellion and the loss of the Monarchy and the Kings life.”

To return again to Sir James' letters. He writes to Mr Stephen Ernault announcing his intention of rebuilding his house which had been burnt,<sup>1</sup> and giving him a Commission to buy glass for windows, from which it may be presumed Scotland did not then produce what was sufficiently good for his purpose. Also at a later date he commissions Bailie Brand to purchase pictures for his staircase, to be bought in Holland, which he stipulates should be “of a lively colour and not sad”!

To Mr STEPHEN ERNAULT

Edin. 3 Feb. 1687.

“ I am going this summer to build a country house for w<sup>h</sup> I shall stand in need of twelve chests of glass<sup>2</sup>—I desire you may take care to chuse the same good. As for news Sir John Dalrymple is made Kings Advocate in place of Sir George Mackenzie.”

<sup>1</sup> The Court in London, as well as that of the Duke of York at Edinburgh, had taken this riot and the burning of Prestonfield into serious consideration, and resolved that Sir James' loss should be indemnified. But the sum received by him never exceeded £800, which was very much less than the amount expended in rebuilding, under Sir William Bruce, the King's Architect.

<sup>2</sup> This glass was to be delivered on the shore at Leith.



"Edin. 30 June 1691.

MEMORANDUM FOR BAILIE ALEXANDER BRAND TO BUY FOR  
SIR JAMES DICK.

SIR

I doe herewith deliver you Tenn Louidores in Gold to be bestowed upon good hansom Pictures to be bought in flanders or Holland, where you think fittest for hanging of my Staire-Caice of my house at Prestonfield w<sup>h</sup> would be in number from Sixteen to Twenty four, as you can have them. Some of them would be large for such particular places of the Staire w<sup>ch</sup> I did lett you see They would be all without Mullers, for the easy transport Roull them all upon Sticks, least if they be foulded, that may spoile the painting— And after you have bought them, send them in the first ship for Leith, allongst with your owne Goodes, and mark the Box or Case, or matt they are put up in, with D directed for me Lett your choyce runn upon Lively Light coloures and not sadd I remitt the ffancie of y<sup>e</sup> Pictures to your owne choyce which will oblige Sir

Your most humble Servant."

The signature is torn away, but the memorandum is docketed on the back "Sir Ja Diks commissione."

There is also this order for two Perriwigs, which is given in a Postscript of another business letter to Mr Stephen Ernault

"I desire you send w<sup>t</sup> ye first occasion for leith Two perwiggs such as you sent me before being neither too long nor too short and about y<sup>e</sup> same pryse y<sup>t</sup> ye last ones but a little light of y<sup>e</sup> colour in respect of my complexion, for another person two other wiggs a little sadd y<sup>n</sup> y<sup>t</sup> forsaid . . Ye one sum long y<sup>e</sup> other a hansom bobb."

As a sample of the ruling prices of Corn, etc., at that period, Sir James mentions in a letter of the 3rd April, 1688.

"Barley at 9/6 per Boll, Oats 7/ and Pease 7/6 is the very lowest at which they are to be had The Boll of Oats in the West Country about Glasgow is selling for 9/6 and 10/.

And in connection with the stirring political events of that year, the following remarks are interesting.

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Writing on the 13th Nov., 1688, he says

"As for news we are all here in great trouble and surprise with the Prince of Orange and an army being landed in England—God send us Peace."

Again on Dec. 4, 1688.

"I doubt not but you have better accounts from England than we have for our news from that to this is daily under caplad<sup>1</sup>

The Packet being almost every time robbed by the way so that we cannot well understand what may be the effects of these Strange Reelings in the Kingdom—the present disorders having made a stop to all payments and receivings." . . .

And again

"There is not any Person here pays any money the times are in such disorder by reason of the Invasion which put the course of all affaires and Judicatories to a stand.

It is not possible for the Provost to help you with any part of that money for the good Town in its general concerns is in great disorder—This week the rabble of the common People put the city and Magistrates in very great disorder for they have destroyed all the Kings Chapel<sup>2</sup> at his dwelling house at the foot of the Cannongate, likewise all private Houses that belonged to Roman Catholics and they dare not appear upon the Streets for fear of the fury of the Rabble—There have been some killed and wounded both of the Kings forces and the Rabble, but at last the Rabble got their will and accomplished their foolish work—

They have likewise gone to all that had Chapels in the Country near the City such as Rosline and Niddry and have destroyed their Chapels and rifled their Houses—

The disorder was such and the fury of the Rabble arrived at that height that hardly any man thought himself secure."

<sup>1</sup> Cap signifies to lay hold of violently, specially to seize a vessel as a prize.

<sup>2</sup> Holyrood Chapel.

## Chapter III.

An extraordinary paper for History—Murder of Sir George Lockhart—  
The sentence—Surrender of Edinburgh Castle by the Duke of Gordon  
—An empty Treasury—Conjugal letters—A love letter—Letter of  
Condolence—The Lady Priestfield—A trip to Bath—The poll tax  
—Relative value of Moneys—Fourth part of a Militia man—The  
Embassadour of Peace.

[1689-1715]





## Chapter III.

ON account of disturbances such as those related in the last chapter, the following proclamation was issued some few years before the King's death.

The somewhat irreverent manner in which his Majesty is described as "Charles by the Etcetera" is obviously so written to save space, there being much to say and paper being a consideration.

This manuscript of King Charles the 2nd is described on the back as "An Extraordinary Paper for History."

It is on a single sheet of foolscap, written very closely and in the old style.

"Charles by the etc. to all and sundry whom it offers Greeting for sae meikll as our Royall Government has been of Latte much affronted and the peace of this our Ancient Kingdom disquieted by Irregular flocking to foul Conventicles y<sup>e</sup> nurseries of rebellions by withdrawing from publick ordinances Invading the persons and pulpits of the orthodox burning of the meeting houses, the killing wounding and Invading of som who were Comanded in our name to expose the said Insolancies Wee have thought fitt in maintenance of our Law and out of that tender cair wee have allways had of this our Ancient Kingdom, to requyr and impower the Lords of our previe Councell to call together not only our standing forces but likewise those of our militia and wee did warand them to Comision al and impower such nobellmen and others as did offer to bring anay of ther vassolls tenents and adherants to the assistance of our forces. And therfor wee with express advice and Consent of the lords of our privy Councell doe herby impowr and requyer . . . to Convocat and draw together

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men and hereters of . . . . who are to march under his comand one horse back and to convocate and raise the Highlanders in his said bounds and others under his comand within his lands properties and superiorities and to form them into regiments troops and companeys as he shall think fitt and to doe everything nesesarie for raising and forming them as gardis and if being so raised and formed wee authorize and comand the gards to march with them to Stirling and to be ther upon Thursday being ye 20th of Jarÿ nixt and in his and ther march to take quarters for ther money and to force quarters for ther money in caise the samyne be refused and when they are arived at the toun of Stirling the day forsaid wee herby comand him and them to obey such orders as sall be sent from our privie Councell the commitie on such person or persons as wee our said lords of privie Councell sall commisionat to comand the forces and to march under ther comand wherever they sall be ordered In which march wee herby outhorize them to tak free quarters according as our privie Councell on ther commitie sall think fitt to order and if need be to seiz upon horses to carie ther seck men amonition and other provizons and for ther encouragement wee herby endemnify them against all pursels civell ore criminall which may at aney time herefter be intendit against them on aney thing they sall doe in our service by kiling commanding aprehending or imprisoning such as sall mak opositione to our autoritie or by seizing such as they have reasone to suspeck the same being abbuisse done by order of our privie Councell ther comitie ore Superior officers, And generally wee doe herby give ye all the pour and indemnitie as is usuall and is necessarie for such forces as are raised by autoritie ore at any time ar comanded to goe upon such militarie expeditions and lastly wee herby comand aney such persons living within the bounds for said as sall be pitched upon by the said . . . . to rise and march with him under his comand and therto act and stay as sall be comanded by him. And that upon ther highest possible . . . herby declared that thes heritors and others upon the Gard . . . sall make use of to comand the highlanders or on foot sall be exempted from atending one horese back      given under our signet at Edbr. the 26 of Decr. byy and of our reiggne the 29 year sic subscribetur Rothes Cancellang, Lauderdaill douglas Marshall Murray Winton Linlithgue Strathmore Seaforth Aboyn Ross Ch. Martlan Go-Makgee" and one other which is quite illegible.      Monroe      W. Scott.

## Murder of Sir George Lockhart 47

To return again to Sir James' correspondence with Mr Ernault, he gives an account of the murder of Sir George Lockhart in the following manner :—

2nd April 1689.

"There fell out upon Sunday last, after the forenoon's sermon, a sad accident. Sir George Lockhart, President of the Court of Session, was shot dead through the Body going in at his own Closehead with Lord Castlehill and some other of his friends.

This murder was designedly done by one Cheisly of Dalry, who has an estate lying within a mile of this place of near 500 Pounds sterling a year.

The said Murderer was apprehended, and the Pistol in his hand being a short pocket pistol. He came stealing behind the President's back, and then shot him. The Ball went through his Body, and came out at his right Pap and grased upon the wall, when he instantly died. I was called to be one of his Assisers, and upon Proof led before us, we have condemned him.

To-morrow at 2 o'clock he is to be executed at the Cross in this manner, viz., his right hand is to be cut off alive, after that he is to be hanged with the Pistol about his neck, and then his body to be hung on chains betwixt Leith and this Place, and his right hand to be placed at the West Port of this town, which is the Port that leads to his estate.

The grounds that the Murderer says he went upon against the Lord President were, that in a sentence of Arbitration betwixt the said Dalry and his Lady, who was forced to part with him as he had offered to murder her, the President had by his sentence allowed her 40 pounds Scots a week (£3, 6s. 8d. sterling) out of his estate for keeping herself and eleven children with their servants, which was little enough in all conscience to maintain such a family. The Lady's allowance amounts to £173, 6s. 8d. per annum."

To the same :—

6 April 1689.

"You cannot expect any part of the Bond to be paid you by the town for all the execution of the Law is stopped and there is nothing here but changes.

There is here a new set of Magistrates chosen this last week by the People. They are all Presbyterians. The new Provost is Sir John Hall."

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Again, writing on the 18th June 1689 :—

“The Duke of Gordon did on fryday last surrender the Castle of Edinburgh. The conditions were, a security for all that were with him and all such as he had correspondance with or assistance from as to their lives or fortunes.

And for himself and his Fortune he referred them to King William’s mercy.”

There is no clue among the letters as to what was in the wind in 1698, obliging Lord Belhaven and others to go into hiding, but that they looked to Sir James to help them in their difficulty is evident from their writing a letter begging his attendance at “The Ship” (a tavern) to discuss important business, “one that you are much concerned in, and that you will (word illegible) any further trouble.” The letter is signed Belhaven, John Schaw, Boyle of Kelburn, Andrew ——” (surname illegible).

Again Lord Belhaven writes :—

“SIR,—Kelburn, Sir John Shaw, Andrew and I ar all to dine at the Ship to concert matters in relation to our escape. Therefore be sure to attend there this day after parliament for you shall be informed that it is much our concern and we ar in no little hazard—Y<sup>r</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup> BELHAVEN.

Monday.”

The payment of all moneys due to individuals by the Treasury, was more honoured in the breach than in the observance, as by passing the responsibility of such acts from one to the other, the Lords of the Treasury managed to escape the liabilities incurred.

Sir James never received the emolument due to him as Lord Provost, viz, £200 for each year of office, a very small sum considering the heavy expenses incurred ; more especially so in his case, it being his duty to attend personally on the Duke of York in his coming and going to Edinburgh from the South, when, as has already been related, he lost all his personal effects in





Memorall for Sir James Dick of Drostorf

Before the union the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh for the time, was by virtue of his office, one of the Lords of the Privy Council of Scotland, & Colonel of the Regiment of the Militia of Edinburgh, & obliged to frequent attendance upon the Ministers of State & the affairs of the Government, whereby they were diverted from their private affairs, & therefore the Government did always allow them £200 sterling annuum.

The said Sir James Dick having exercised that office for two years vizt from Michaelmas 1679 to Michaelmas 1681 during the first year he not only received precepts from the said Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for his £200, but got punctual payment thereof, the second year he likewise got precepts from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, as appears from exact duplicates thereof hereto annexed the originals being in Sir James's own hands.

Of these two precepts Sir James never received any payment, for they being drawn upon Sir William Sharp then General Receiver, & he being soon thereafter removed from that office, refused to make payment thereof, because he said he was in advance to the publick & Hugh Wallace of

Sir James was shifted off till the Revolution came on, then the new Government would not pay the debts of the old.

Sir James therefore humbly hopes, That seeing the attendance upon the Ministers of State & the affairs of the Government, was the Cause of giving the said £200,000 & that during the time of his administration the then Duke & Duchess of York, & Her present Majesty came to Scotland & resided in the Royal palace of Holyrood: house for some time, wherethrough, as it was Sir James's great Honour & duty to attend upon them at all proper occasions in so imminent a post, so it did necessarily put him to very extraordinary charges & expences, Her Majesty will please to give Sir James's payment of the said two hundred pounds but of such funds & in such a manner as shall be most proper & effectual.





Provest of Edr  
100<sup>th</sup> fore.

Sir William Sharp taskkeeper pay in the month of June next to come unto Sir James Dick Provest of Edr the sum of one hundred pound sterling as his pension for the term of Martinmas last for which those presents & his receipt shal be your warrant Dated at Edr the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1691 sic  
subscriptur dothos Athol of gyle Quensberry

Provest of Edr  
100<sup>th</sup> fore.

Sir William Sharp taskkeeper pay in the month of November next to come unto Sir James Dick Provest of Edr the sum of one hundred pound sterling as his pension for the term of Whitsunday last, for which those presents & his receipt shall be your warrant Dated at Edr the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1691 sic subscriptur Athol of Quensberry Ch: Martland.





Edgar Allan Poe

1000

1881. Sir William Sharpe (afterwards) speaking the month  
of June next to come) unto Sir James Duff, brother  
of Sir James Duff, of one hundred pounds sterling.  
of the pension for the term of months left. For 9 or  
the property with his own shall buy or warrant  
of Sir James Duff the 9th of June 1891

0.748

Alfred

to be  
L. M. M. M.









R. Martland



Lord, shop  
present for 100<sup>th</sup>  
shop for 100<sup>th</sup>

present for 100<sup>th</sup>



the shipwreck, and in addition had his country house burned to the ground.

That he did not give up hope of reimbursement may be seen by the memorial or petition to Queen Anne for the arrears of salary as Lord Provost 1680-81—which is here facsimiled along with the Precepts for the money duly signed, but neither he nor his successors ever received one penny of it. Thus for the second time, this family served their king and their country to be but scurvily treated in return.

To turn from public affairs to private life, these letters, one from Sir James Dick to his wife Dame Anna Paterson, and one from her to him, are written before he attained the rank of a Baronet; they are so delightful in their quaint wording, so charming in their simplicity and sincerity, that, though they contain but few words these suffice to show at a glance the manner of persons they must have been.

Mr JAMES DICK to his wife

Newcastell 4th May 1667.

DEAR HERTE

My last to you wes a fferweill kisse thes ar to informe you that yesternight I cam to this please, and intends forward this night. I rest with my love to Father and Mother and all frinds in gennerall, but in partikicular to littell A. D.

Your Dearest Dear

JA DICK.

Mrs DICK to her husband

Edinburgh 7th of May 1667.

MY DEAREST LOVE,

Yours I receaved daited the 4/ of this instant from Newcastell w<sup>t</sup> ane letter and ane bill for Mr Chatres.

All friends hath their love remembert to you and to your Unkell whom I hop ye shall sie shortly your dochter Anna Dick hath her humbell service presented to you and to her Grand Unkell my dearest

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love not troubling you mor at present bot committing your soull and  
your bodie and all your concernings onto the cair and gyding of the  
only ways God . . . and restes

Your dearest and ondouted frend  
till Daith ANNA PATERSONE.

Another letter of a later date is addressed.

To the Much Honored SIR JAMES DICK OF PRESTONFIELD

Att the hous of Mrs Winkle att the great braziers shop in pell mell  
neir St James London.

Postage was a consideration in those days,<sup>1</sup> so Lady Dick fills the first sheet only, writing in the old style, very close and small, the characters resembling German writing, and the two inside sheets are filled by the house or land steward, "Will Don." He begins, "My Lord," and after giving an account of business transacted by him, says:—

"Sir Thomas Moncriff of that Ilk I hear is just going to be married upon Sir John Young of Lennie his relick William Allan in Duddingstoun is Deceased and was Interred this Day, I have got the money paid for the hay etc."

The next is a love letter, commendable for its brevity, and is addressed to Isobell Pattersone, probably either sister or niece to Lady Dick, if we may judge from the letter being amongst the family papers; a curious place for a love letter truly. Little could Mrs Isobell have thought when she held this letter in her hand, that more than two hundred years later it would be read with interest by eyes for which it was never intended. The heart that was lost, "ye may guyss where," has long ceased to beat, but the flimsy paper that the scorch of a flame or a puff of wind would destroy remains to tell the oft repeated tale.

<sup>1</sup> A letter enclosed in an envelope was charged as two separate letters until early in 1800.

# A Love Letter and Condolences 51

for

ISOBELL PATTERSONE

These

Westminster 25 Novembr 1668

DEAR HEART

I received yos of the 23d of the last in ansr to myne ffor which I kindly thank you I am glad to hear of yor owen health as also of all yor relations I have been necessitat to stay at this place Longer as I intended bot I intend to stay the shorter tyme abroad If I were ance settled at paris I intend to writ you a lyne of my resolution anent my returne ffor Scotland if ance the dead of the winter were over I mynd not to make any long stay thereafter Be confident till it shall please God I once see you I shall not settle much ffor it is most certaine the Shadow must follow the substance albeit I believe I lost my heart ye may guys where and I hope shall evir continue thine till death, and believe that I am as many tymes I proposed Mrs

Yo<sup>r</sup> devoted servant to death

JO. MORAY.

Mrs ISOBELL

If it should chance as God forbid that I doe nevir returne I have ordered a speciall freind of myne to present you w<sup>t</sup> a token of the respect and Love I carried to ward you when alive which I intreat ye may accept bot I wish I may be the giver my selfe which is the warmest desire of Mrs

Yo<sup>r</sup> servant

JO MORAY.

The following letter of condolence from Sir James' brother William, on the death of their sister, is unique in style and expression :—

London the 30th January

1692

COLLEGE HEAD

AND

LOVING BROTHER

I send this my dumb Messenger to you to signifie: That I doe mutually simpathize with you in the losse which I have; of a deare loving sister: And I hope (in your good esteem) of a vertuous wyfe, easpecially considering the value you had for her (when alive): who is now descended into the shades of death: How can wee (I say) bot greife: to think of her absence: of whoss presence wee shall

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never participate in this world, (God grant) wee may in the nixt (Bot Sir) Seeing that her Soull is alreadie lancht forth into that Immenss Ocean of Eternitie of bliss (I hope) Lett us then therfor, who are alive; hoisse upp our saills and make readie for the same voyage: ffor it is decreed long since, in heaven, that the Apple which our fore-father Adam Eate in paradize, wee his offspring should tast of the same frutt ether sooner or latter on earth: (Sir) nature and reason bearheth me, that I should have had the preredemion of her the feast for the worms: considering the severall years difference betwixt her and me. Bot the all wisse Ruling providence doth Order it otherwyes for reasons known to himself; which are hidden from us mortalls. Now (Sir) to concludd, Lett me begg this favour; of you, humblie to submitt to the will of God: in this way of his providence which will evidentlie demonstratt you a good Cristian to those that know you (when) with a full Resignation of your will to Gods and quiett Reposse of Spritt (you can say) in all his dispensations to you; after that most perfect patern of prayer of our Saviour, which is (Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven) whilk that you may soe doe I leave you to the protection of the almighty God and soe subscribe Sir

Your most affectionat brother  
in law and humble servant.

The signature might be anything, but it seems to be that of Wm. Dick, a brother of Sir James, who lived in London, and, judging by the tenor of various letters, was usually in pecuniary difficulties.

It is addressed                      " For  
THE LAIRD OF COLLEDGHEID,  
Thes."

Dame Anna Patterson, Lady Dick, seems to have been much loved and revered, as we gather from the various allusions made to her, the encomiums addressed to her by respectful admirers, and the enormous sum spent on her funeral. The fashion of retaining the maiden name after marriage continued in vogue for long, and is still usual in France, where ladies in

writing friendly letters sign their maiden name, though letters are addressed to them after the style and title of their husbands.

## E N C O M I U M

UNTO THE HONOURED LADY THE LADY PREISTFIELD

Right worthie Lady could I but express  
 The least pairt of your worth in this Adresse  
 I'd surely think that I more happie were  
 Then many who move in a higher sphere  
 But ah my foggie genius is below  
 The reach off these great things I faine would know  
 I mean these divine vertues which you own  
 Justly as yours whereby so great Renoune  
 You have from everyone with you acquaint,  
 And honour pay'd as a deserving saint,  
 Your good descent from worthy parrentage  
 Your sweet deportment in your tender age  
 Your so rare carrage in a marrid life  
 Tell all you do excell both Maid and Wife  
 With rarest graces you so brightly shyne  
 That all admire you as a thing divine,

Another, written somewhat after the same manner, is addressed :—

For

The Right Honourable Lady

The LADY PRISTFILLDE

The name Priestfield seems, early in 1700, insensibly to have changed to Prestonfield; at one time Sir James Dick's letters being addressed entirely to the former name, then sometimes to one, sometimes to the other, and finally entirely to the latter. The prefix Honourable is given in right of the Baronetcy of Nova Scotia, which carries that distinction,



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Here we have another style, dated 1681-83 :—

To  
The most Virtuous  
DAME ANNA PATERSON  
LADY PRIESTFIELD.

Dares any Muse that haunteth honors Train,  
A loft will not some unknown Rapture strain  
Madam your dignitie congratulate  
Even in Particular your present state;  
Amongst the Ladies of Renowned Fame,  
N on bears more praise than Lady Priestfields Name;  
Nature on whom bestous all Rareteis, that  
Are Judg'd Thy Sex : for to make estimat,  
Perfections Paradice, modest discreet  
A lon the Centre wher the Virtues meet,  
Truly within whose Acts all may have read  
E lect by Heav'ns was mate to Knighthood's Bed,  
R ich Precious Jewell Edinburgh lets see  
Splendid bright tokens of Fœlecitie  
O f Citty Dames wee shall not find the like  
Noble Brave Lady, unto Provost Dick.

M. MURRAY.

Some items of accounts are interesting, showing the enormous cost of everything at that period. Here is a bill for "Confections furnished to the Lady Priestfield" in 1693, in which six pounds of common biscuits are charged £3, 8s. The total amount comes to £58, 18s.! In 1710, Sir James buys him a wig, £5, and five years later a damask nightgown, "item for plying and silk and a velvet cap"—in all £36, 6s. These are a few of the items for Lady Dick's funeral,<sup>1</sup> the entire cost of which was £1596, 7s. 6d. (Scots) :—"The flannel dead clothes, £64, 10s." "The horse and velvet palls, 3 black coaches and 10 others, £158, 18s." "Drink

<sup>1</sup> At the funeral of Lady Lamburghtoune in 1679 some curious items of expense are given, such as "For stopping the clock on the buriall day" and "For paying the souldiers who carried the torches at her transportation,"



RECEIVED the Thretin day of Januare 1696 years, From  
 Sir James Dick of prestonfield Knight, His  
 Lady, William & Mistres Janet  
 Dick his Sone and Daughter  
 The Summ of Twentie Eight pound four Shilling fols  
 And that as the Pole-Money. imposed by Act of Parliament, of the  
 date the 27 day of June 1695, According as they have given up and  
 Classed themselves in the place of prestonfield in Duddingstone Parish  
 As Witnes my Hand, Day and Date foresaid, By me

Sir James Dick for himself	24-06-0
Sam Anna palerson his Lady	0-6--
William Dick his Sone	3-6--
Mistres Janet Dick his Daughter	4-0-6--
	<u>28-4-0</u>

money," supplied at the different stages of the proceedings, from the closing of the morte coffin, to the lowering in the vault, comes to a large sum, besides money given to the poor. "To Mr Combs to ane Elogie 1st, and for ane Elogie 6a, £7, 10s." Truly, being buried was a very serious matter.

It would appear by the annexed account that, in April 1703, Sir James Dick and his son-in-law, Sir William Cunyngham, had taken a journey to Bath, returning *via* London and Scarborough, each paying his share of the expenses, which are carefully noted and divided in the following manner :—

1703 CHARGE		DISCHARGE	
	£ s. dr.		£ s. dr.
Imp. I received the 14th Apryll from my ss. in law at Edinburgh in silver mony . . . .	4 0 0	Expended on our journey to Bath . .	9 19 5
It ye 22nd upon ye road to ye Bath in silver money . . . .	3 5 0	Expended at ye Bath and in our journey to London . .	30 19 10
It ye 1st May from him at ye Bath, 20 guineas inde . . . . .	21 10 0	Expended at London . .	25 1 4
I ye 7th June from him at London, 15 guineas inde . . . . .	16 2 6	Expended in our journey from London to Scarsburgh . .	5 3 0
It ye 15th from him these 30 guineas more, inde . . . .	32 5 0	Expended at Scarsburgh . . . .	6 19 9
It ye 28th, from him at York a guinea, inde . . . .	1 1 6	Expended in our journey from Scarsburgh homewards . .	4 17 0
Summa is . . . . .	78 4 0	Summa is . . . .	83 00 4
Ballance is . . . . .	4 16 4		
W <sup>m</sup> Donn <sup>1</sup> Clearburn 18 Agust 1703			
pay to Sir W <sup>m</sup> Cunningham the above ballance being ffour pounds sixtin shill. and four pence sterling without resept J <sup>a</sup> D			
			£ s dr
The money received from my ss. in law of our Late journey being . . . .			78 4 0
The summe above expended as p accompt above written being . . . .			4 16 4
The just Ballance is . . . . .			73 7 8
So that my equal half of the forsd <sup>2</sup> expenses to be pay'd in, comes to . . . .			36 13 10

The annexed receipt for money paid by Sir James Dick and family in poll tax, shews the manner in which this charge was imposed. It was one of the many methods adopted with a view to replenishing the Treasury, and when tried for the first time in May 1693, it was farmed out by the Government to Lord Ross, Sir

<sup>1</sup> Sir James' land steward

<sup>2</sup> aforesaid

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John Cochran of Ochiltree, and others. It proved a failure, for the people either could not or would not understand the wording of the Act, and when it was again applied in 1695, the greater part of the tax remained for months unpaid. It was once more imposed in 1698, after which it was finally abandoned. According to the Act "All Heritors of one thousand pounds of valued rent and above the same, and all Knights Barronets, and Knights be subject and lyable to twenty-four pounds of poll money, and that they pay for each of their male children in familia three pounds." The tax increased with the rank of the individual, the tax for an earl being sixty pounds, while it decreased for officers in the army, doctors, lawyers, etc. Servants and cottars were charged six shillings a head.

Following this we have a table which shows the relative value of money at different periods between 1107 and 1756. Of this table a facsimile is also given.

For twenty years Sir James had as his secretary Mr George Watson, founder of the well-known Watson's Hospital in Edinburgh, which he built and named after himself; and it was while acting for Sir James that he amassed his fortune, chiefly from his being allowed to negotiate foreign bills, and that to a certain extent, with Sir James' money. "In after years he went every Saturday to consult with his old master about the rules and forms of his Hospital, directing his Trustees, instead of the ordinary weathercock, to imitate Sir James' crest, a ship, which was to be fully rigged to show the wind."<sup>1</sup> He is described in Sir Alexander's memorandum book as a very worthy man, particularly fond of quoting this rhyme of his own making—

"He that has a watch this must do,  
To pocket his watch and watch his pocket too."

<sup>1</sup> Sir Alexander's Memorandum.



# Account of the Value of Scots Money

				A Pound Weight of Silver Coin consisted of				Vouchers	
				Pure Silver		Alloy		And Defect in Scots money for	
Year	Monies	Quo	Things of Scotland	Oz fine gr	Oz fine gr	£	Shillings		
1100	1107	1107	Alexander I.	11 2	18	1	1		
			David I.						
			Malcolm						
			Alexander II.						
			Alexander III.						
1200	1203	1203	John	11 2	18	1	1		
			Robert I.						
			David II.	11 2	18	1	1		
			Edward	11 2	18	1	1		
			Robert II.	11 2	18	1	1		
1300	1307	1307	Robert III.	11 2	18	1	1		
			Jacob I.	11 2	18	1	1		
			Jacob II.	11 2	18	1	1		
			Edward	11 2	18	1	1		
			Robert III.	11 2	18	1	1		
1400	1456	1456	Robert III.	11 2	18	1	1		
			Jacob I.	11 2	18	1	1		
			Jacob II.	11 2	18	1	1		
			Edward	11 2	18	1	1		
			Robert III.	11 2	18	1	1		

*This appears from Statute Robert III. cap. 22. compared with the weight of their pieces yet extant; for the pieces of all these Kings do weigh each of them 12 grains. Which is full as much as any English money since the Conquest does weigh. Vide Nominis Britannici list. pag. 6.*

*Statute Robert III. cap. 22.*

*Stat. Rob. IV. cap. 38.*

*Stat. Edward cap. 46.*

*Robert III. cap. 22.*

*Robert I. cap. 23.*

*Robert I. cap. 32.*

*Robert I. cap. 38.*

*In the Reigns of these six Kings, the Money both of Scotland & England, was equal in its intrinsic Value to its Denomination. But in the Nominal Count of Money consisted of a fixed Pound weight of Silver. And thus it continued in Scotland till the end of the 13th Century, or the Reign of Edward the 1st of England. And as at this Day, a pound of Silver is worth £3.2. in Sterling, or £3.4. in Scots Money, so in Scotland in the Reign of King Malcolm the 1st, and for near 300 Years thereafter, the kind of £100,000 of the Money then known in Scotland, was as much Silver as would amount at this Day to above £100,000 Sterling. And when Millions two hundred thousand Shillings then money, which so long before the discovery of the West Indies, was a contemptible Income arising from the poor ancient Kingdom.*

In the Reigns of these last Kings of the Money both of Scotland & England was equal in its intrinsic Value to its Denomination: that is, A Nominal Pound of Money consisted of a fixed Pound weight of Silver: And thus it continued in Scotland till the end of the 13th Century, or the Reign of Edward the 1st of England. And as this 1204, is proved at 1100, Silver is worth £13.2... shilling, or £37.4... shillings in Scotland in the Reign of King Malcolm Canmore, and for near 300 Years thereafter, the Price of 100,000 of the money then known as Scotland was as much Silver as would amount at this Day to above £100,000 Sterling: And above 100,000 hundred thousand pounds Sterling, which so long before the discovery of the West Indies, was a contingent Income arising from the poor ancient Kingdom.

This appears from Statute 14th Cap. 22. compared with the weight of their coins yet extant, for the Coins of all these Kings do weigh each of them 100 Grains. Which is full as much as any English Coiny since the Conquest does weigh. Vide Nomenclonnum, not pag. 6.

Statute Robert III. Cap. 22.

Statute David IV. Cap. 38.

Statute Edward Cap. 46.

Robert III. Cap. 22.

David I. Cap. 23.

David I. Cap. 32.

David I. Cap. 58.

1473	13	Jacobi III.	11. 2.	10.	1. 4.
1483	23	Ejusdem.	11. 2.	18.	7.
1488			11. 2.	18.	7.
1489		Jacobus IV.	11.	1.	9. 12.
1529	16	Jacobi V.	11.	1.	9. 12.
1544	2	Maria	11.	1.	13.
1555	13	Ejusdem.	11.	1.	18.
1565	23	Ejusdem.	11.	1.	18.
1567	1	Jacobi VII.	11.	3.	16. 11.
1571	4	Henricus	8.	4.	16. 11.
1577	10	Jacobus VIII.	11.	1.	22.
1579	12	Ejusdem.	11.	1.	24.
1581	14		11.	1.	30.
1597	30		11.	1.	36.
1601	34		11. 2.	18.	37. 4.
1756					

*Paula: 13. cap: 93.*  
*Paula: 1. cap: 2. Paula: 2. cap: 17.*

*Bishop Laurentius de la Roche contract.*

*14. March. Medinaceli. fol: 123.*  
*22. Decembrio.*  
*30. Augusti. Med: fol: 122.*  
*Med: fol: 158.*

*contract. medinaceli. Med: fol: 185.*

*Med: Paula: unprinted.*

*Med: Paula: 17. cap: 106 & 107.*  
*15. cap: 249.*

*Med: Paula: 17. Decembrio. Med: fol: 209.*

This is one amongst the old receipted bills of this period—

“The thirtin day of febreryrie, 1689 years.

Permit To send to Edinburgh, for the use of James  
 Hamiltoune, one hogheid of french wyen.  
 For which the good Town's Impost is payed.  
 This to continue till night.  
 For all concerned.” Signed AND. CROCKET, GEO. WATSON.

and there is also a curious one dated 1728, for the

“Sending of a Butt of Sweet Chiry, the largest I could lay hands upon, it holds 8 galands and six pints.”

Several years before his death Sir James had the curious whim of ordering his lead coffin to be prepared, but the villain of a plumber made it seventy stone in weight, so that when it came to be drawn upstairs it broke through the fine staircase, then a feature of the new house from its unusual width. This coffin he kept in his bedroom filled with bottles of old wine, although, according to Sir Alexander, “he was always a man of cheerfulness and sobriety, and lived to his 85th year.” Another receipt of what no doubt went to fill the bottles in the coffin is dated—

“CUSTOMS AND EXCISE OFFICE, LEITH. 1 Julle, 1694.

Permit John Marjoribanks to send to Prestonfield for the use of Milord un boutt sake. For which their Majesteis duty is payd, and this to continue till mornes night.

For all concerned.”

The calculations made against each landowner for raising men or money for militia are very remarkable, amounting in some instances to the fourth part of a man. Here is the valuation of the parish of Duddingston :—

“To the Right Honourable Sir JAMES DICK of Prestonfield.

“May it please your Honour,—I received this morning from Baillie Grierson one acct of the Valuations of Duddingston parish which I have





a hat and new blew coat, lined with wyt, according to the act of His Majestee's privie Counsell." <sup>1</sup> A "Randewow day" was appointed for the men to join.

The following extracts from a curious old printed paper are an example of the credulity of the age:—

#### THE EMBASSADOUR OF PEACE

Being a Strange and Wonderful Relation of a WHITE DOVE Seated on a Rain-Bow. That appears to several Persons, in the Parish of Peter's Carlile; particularly to Mrs *Isabel Fletcher* (wife to Mr Fletcher, Apothecary). To whom it relates Strange and Wonderful Things concerning the state of Affairs in this nation; very positively asserting *Universal Peace* and *Plenty* to all Christendom, the ensueing year 1697. Proving the Subversion of the French King from several Texts of Scripture; especially from the last Verse of the 31st Psalm.

To which is Added

Its disputes with several Ministers; as also its pious *Prayers* and *Exhortations* to all the People that dayly far and near flock to see it. The truth of all which is Confirmed by the Testimony of Two Letters, the one sent to the Reverend Dr Simpson, and the other Writ by the Worshipful Justice Patrickson.

#### TYDINGS OF JOY, PEACE, AND PLENTY.

The following Relation I am going to make, is a Subject of such Marvellous and Supernatural Astonishment, that I dare not pretend to fathom it, by the Line and Plummet of Humane Reason. *The works of God are unsearchable, and past man's finding out.* It is beyond all contradiction, that the Infinite Being has opened the Mouth of Dumb Irrational Creatures, Birds and Beasts, and by them check'd the incorrigibleness of wicked Man; the Example of *Balaam's Ass* manifests one, and, to go no further, our Modern Speaking *Raven* (a Miracle yet fresh in our Memories) confirms the other. I must confess, the ensuing Narrative, infinitely creates a much greater Admiration; First, As its Appearance is in the likeness of a Dove, that once Representative (if I may so say) of the Holy Ghost: And Secondly, As it was seated on

<sup>1</sup> "The Parish of Inverurie."—DAVIDSON.



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a *Rainbow*, That *Token of the Covenant* between *God and Man*, That the *Waters Should no more become a Flood to destroy all Flesh*.

History informs us of the delusion of Mahomet's Pidgeon, which indeed only whispered him in the ear, but the *Dove* I am now speaking of talks frequently, *Holely*, *Audibly*, and *Publickly*. I cite this, not to persuade any to ascribe sanctity to this Present Prodigy; for why may not the Grand Deluder of Mankind (that Prince of the Air whose Power and Policy is great) impose such a *pia fraus*, that under the likeness of *harmless Innocence*, he may more securely devour. *False Christs* and *False Prophets* (saith the Holy Evangelist) *shall arise, and shall show Wonders to seduce if it were possible even the Elect*. Therefore I heartily recommend to my readers, etc., etc., etc.

### THE NARRATIVE.

On Friday the 23rd Oct. last, a little after sun-setting, the Wife of John Fletcher, etc., a woman of good and pious disposition, being set in her chamber in a melancholy thinking posture, with her child in her arms, felt on a sudden an unusual Warmness about her Head and immediately after discern'd the likeness of a *White Dove*, as it were upon a *Rainbow*, whereupon she presently fell down into a Trance. But at last recovering herself she heard the Words uttered by it in a shrill and powerful sound, "*Isabel! be not afraid, for I am a Messenger sent from God, to proclaim Glad Tidings to all England; yea, even to all those that sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ*." And so, bidding her attend in the same place next evening, it for that time disappeared.

Amongst the items of information supplied by this Wonderful Bird were "the total subversion of the Ottoman Empire in a very small space of time; and a signal victory over the French in '97, and that Peace and Tranquility will thereupon ensue. It also speaks of the Affairs between France and the Duke of Savoy." "It delivers its answers after a mysterious ambiguous manner, as did the Oracles of old." The general verdict, however, was that it was no less than the Finger of God.

## Chapter IV.

The Duke of Lauderdale opens Parliament—Travellers' passes—Sir John Cunyngham sent for by the King—Catalogue of grievances—Fall of the Duke—News of the Day—Sir John named Chancellor of Scotland—Creation of the Earl of Aberdeen—Death of Sir John—Edinburgh Beaux—A Plot and Proclamation—Sir William Dick—A journey to England—Family Letters—An Elopement—Earl of Eglintoun's advice to his son.

[1672—1729]



## Chapter IV.

To turn now to the Glencairn side of the family.

The Cunyngghams had always been remarkable for their legal capacity, and Sir John Cunynggham (or as frequently, though incorrectly, spelt Cuninghame) of Lambroughton is thus eulogized in the Diary.

"Very learned in civil and comon law as well as in Philosophical learning, he was above all a man of eminent probity and not only learned but judicious and had the most universal and deserved reputation for integrity and virtue not only in his own profession but of the whole nation."<sup>1</sup>

No doubt for this reason he was called upon to serve his King and Country in a very delicate and difficult matter, as the next document shows.

The Duke of Lauderdale was at that time (1672) the most powerful man in the country, and the following is a description of his opening Parliament, accompanied by his Duchess.

June 12 1672.

"On the Parliament sitting down to-day under the Duke of Lauderdale as Commissioner his lady with 30 or moe ladies, accompanys the Duke to the Parliament in Coaches and are set down in Parliament hous—and sat to hear the Commissioner's speech. A practice so new and extraordinary that it raised the indignation of the people very much against her, they hated to find that aspired to by her. It set them to inquire into her origin and faults and to rail against the lowness of the one and the suspicions of the other. . . .

"The Duke at fifty-seven only six weeks a widower had married the Duchess in the preceeding February in London all their friends in

<sup>1</sup> Sir Alexander's Memoranda.

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Edinr. making feasts on their marriage day while the Castle shot as many guns as on his Majesty's birthday."<sup>1</sup>

She was a remarkable woman, both witty and clever, and "the daughter of one who had been minister of Dysart, she was Countess of Dysart in her own right and by Sir Lionel Tollemache had had a large family."

There was a romance in her union with the Duke. "He had owed her his life through her influence with Oliver Cromwell, and in his marriage he really yielded to his gratitude."

For the next ten years they were virtually King and Queen, until all Scotland was smarting under their rule, and matters arrived at such a pitch that reports reached the King's ears, and Sir John Cunyngham was sent for. The letter by which he was called is here facsimiled, and its substance is printed "that he who runs may read."

There is also appended the Catalogue of Grievances, which formed the basis of the matter under discussion.

London, June 5th, 1679.

SIR,—His Majestie having proposed that there might be a Conference in his presence concerning such things as have been the Subjects of Complaints in Scotland. His Majestie was told that it could not be to any purpose unless that Lawyers and persons knowing in the affairs of Scotland were sent for from thence, since it was not to be supposed that one single Lawyer who is here could undertake to speak freele in matters of that Consequence. Nor was it like His Majestie would so much consider the single opinion of one man as he might do the concurring testimonies of diverse eminent men in the Law, and you having been proposed by name amongst others, His Majestie's graciouslie pleased to allow that you should be sent for, and hath promised that upon your coming here he will lay his commands on you to speak freele and fuoolie to let him know what is Law in matters to be proposed, and for your encouragement will secure you and the other Lawyers from all inconveniences. This being so great

<sup>1</sup> Domestic Annals.—R. Chambers.



Order 1000 3  
169.

And Mr. Magistis having proposed that there might be a Conference in his presence concerning said things as have been the subject of Complaints in Scotland Mr. Magistis was told that it could not be to any purpose unless that Lawyer and parson knowing in the affairs of Scotland were for that of them since it had not to be supposed that said Lawyer who is here would undertake to speak freely in Scotland of that Conference now was it that Mr. Magistis would so much to give the first opinion of one whom as he might do the convincing testimony of Mr. Magistis's men in the case and you having been proposed by name amongst others Mr. Magistis I granted to allow that you should be for you and have promised that upon your coming here Mr. Magistis lay his commands on you to speak freely and frankly to let him know what is law in matters to be proposed and for your encouragement will serve you and the other Lawyers from all intermeddling that brings to speak and give a satisfaction not which we have so much formerly desired and wished also do mutual and obtain your advice would not be an opportunity given to be regained and as you wish well to the interest of our Country and especially that you repeat rather with all haste whereby you will be obliged

Your affectionate friends  
and humble servants.

Harriet  
Loring

John  
Charles Perthe

M. A. M. M.

Wm. M. M.

Wm. M. M.

and gracious a condescendance which we have so much formerlie desired and wished. We do intreat and obtest. you at you would not neglect an opportunity never to be regained, and, as you wish well to the interests of our Country and posterity, that you repair hither with all haste whereby you will also oblige, Sir, your affectionat friends and humble servants.—

HAMILTOUN, ATHOLL, CASSELLES, PERTHE, KINCARDIN,  
W. DRUMMOND, A<sup>w</sup> MURRAY.

CATALOGUE OF GRIEVANCES.

1679.

Illegal proceedings against the Advocats.  
Againes the Bishop of Dumblaine.  
Againes the 4 ministers of E<sup>dr</sup>.  
Againes Illegal Imprisonments . . . to Cardross. . . .  
The Injustice doone to the townen of E<sup>dr</sup>.  
Incapacitating of persons to bear publict offices by lettares from the King.  
Unreasonable fynings.  
Garisoning of frie subjects houses.  
Assessing the countrie for providing necassaries for these garisones.  
The caise of the Town of Pearth.  
Abusing of our mint, silver and copper.  
Selling of ye Leidges for slaves into fforaine plantations.  
Bryberries in abusing the K. n<sup>t</sup> . . . ye Bass.  
In selling of the title of ye E of Caithness. . . .  
In deposing ye Reg: Primrose who bought his office by the King's  
Consent.  
In keeping that office void and collecting the (profittes) for privat use.  
Giving that office by pactione.  
Disposing of a ffyne by grant of ye King before it was imposed.  
Raising ane armie of Hollanders and authorizing them to take frie quarters.  
Pressing a bond to oblige masters for . . . tenants, etc.  
Chargeing the . . . w<sup>t</sup> Lettares of . . .  
Quayting the noblemen and gentlemen of ane shire.  
Disarming of ye Kings Loyall subjects.  
Taking away mens houses above the rait of 4 lib. 5 sh.  
A proclamation dischargeing the gentlemen of our Shire from E<sup>dr</sup>.  
Another prohibiting anie gentleman to goe out of ye Kingdom w<sup>t</sup> out  
Licence.  
Turneing out Councillares and officers of militia upon privat sugestiones.

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Granting

The ffyning of 4 . . . for a lettar.

Translatione of ye Bishop of E<sup>dr</sup>.

The Councells assuming the Legislative Power.

Imprisoning a Member of Parliat for no just reasone.

The turning out the Justice Generall and Judge Lockhart.

Remembering the Advocats letter to the Duke Lauderdaill.

Procureing gifts and signatures of recognitions.

Mitchells business.

Arbitarie decisions and sentences of ye Lords.

Imposing of . . . upon . . .

The givinge Pensions to Papists and advancing some of them to be counsellares and officers.

The givinge of Commissiones to officers for being Justices of Peace for counties qr they have no interest.

The apointing of ye Lawes by a militaire power who warranted by Commission to robe persones of their cloathes.

The result of the deputation and Sir John's representations was the fall of the Duke for his cruelties and illegal proceedings.

The annexed facsimile is that of a somewhat interesting Act for "discharging persons to travel from Edinburgh without passes."

The next letter worthy of note is remarkable for two reasons, first for the news it contains, and secondly that the reverse side of this private and confidential letter has been employed by a servant to note down the expenses incurred in his master's absence!

It is written to

SIR JOHN CÜNINGHAME of Lambroughtonne, Scotland,  
and bears a seal on the left hand.

SIR,—I had not been so long in giving you the trouble of a letter if I had had anything worthy the writing to you, for I and so many was obliged to you that it were an unpardonable neglect in me to be unmindful of you. The great news of Shaftsburies being turned out of the Council yesterday, and the parliaments being prorogued to the last of January nixt, are things deserve your knowledge and cane not before this be come to your knowledge. It is still talked here with confidence that







# ACT

*Discharging Persons to Travel from Edinburgh without Passes.*

*Edinburgh, December 8. 1696.*

**T**He Lords of His Majesties Privy Council, for the better keeping and securing the Peace of the Kingdom, have thought fit to appoint, and

travel from *Edinburgh*, to any part of the Kingdom without a Pass from one or other of their Lordships Number, bearing their Names, and the place to which they are designed to go; Certifying such as shall be found to contraven this Act, that they shall be stopped till they be farther examined; And all Magistrates, and other Officers Civil or Military are to take care that these precepts be duely observed: And Ordains these precepts ~~to~~ be Printed, and Published, that none pretend Ignorance. Extracted by me

GILB. ELIOT, *cl. in S<sup>a</sup>. Concilio.*

GOD save the K I N G.

*Edinburgh*, Printed by the Heirs and Successors of *Andrew Anderson*, Printer to His Most Excellent Majesty, 1696.



the Duke of York will in two or three weeks take journey for Scotland.  
Sir, as to my affair here I can only say that I have some hops of getting something done.

Sir, Your most humble servant,

CARDROSS,

London 16 Oct 1679.

Pardon the badness of the paper and writ being from my chamber and in hest.

This is the reverse side of the letter :

1690

June 19—Item for coler eggs, . . . . .	00 02 06
Mor for eggs, . . . . .	00 02 00
It for a farl of Sharf brad, . . . . .	00 04 00
It for a dusing of eggs, . . . . .	00 01 10
20—It for 13 pints of ale, . . . . .	00 06 00

This being spent the day yee want away, 00 16 04

June 23—Impremus for bere to the pot, . . . . .	00 00 16
Itt for 6 plack pigs, . . . . .	00 02 00
Itt for adusing of spelding, . . . . .	00 02 10
Itt for a cheas, . . . . .	00 04 00
Itt for the lasas brad all the week, . . . . .	00 12 00
Itt for my brad, . . . . .	00 03 08
Itt for sour milk to the cats, . . . . .	00 00 16
Itt for eggs and Lamfeat, . . . . .	00 02 04
Itt for smal drink, . . . . .	00 01 00
Itt for 7 pints al, . . . . .	02 02 00

July 1—Impremus for a Lag of motten, . . . . .	00 12 00
Itt for beear to pot, . . . . .	00 00 08
Itt for the Lasas week brad, . . . . .	00 12 00
Itt for my brad and al, . . . . .	00 07 00
Itt for more ale, . . . . .	00 14 00
Itt for smal drink, . . . . .	00 01 06
It for eggs, . . . . .	00 04 00

02 11 02

the som of this Sid is 06 09 06

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Such was Sir John's reputation that, a few months before his death, which took place, after an illness of some duration, in his fifty-ninth year, the King named him Chancellor of Scotland.

This honour, he was, however, obliged to decline, owing to the state of his health ; the King then bade him name a substitute, which he did in favour of his acquaintance Sir George Gordon of Haddo, who became Chancellor, and immediately after was created Earl of Aberdeen.

The following lines are extracts from an "Elogy on the death of Sir John Cunninghame of Caprington."

"And is he gone? the fatall day is come,  
"None dismall in all the Book of Doom:  
"Could every eye weep tears, and these tears blood,  
"It were too small for one so highly good."

And so it continues for some 130 lines.

"And as he lived he died, nor would depart  
"Till the holy Eucharist confirmed his heart,  
"And justest Absolution eas'd its smart."

Finally ending with these words :

"We may bewail, but cannot call again  
"The best of Subjects, Lawyers and of Men."

He was succeeded by his son, Sir William Cunyngham, who married Sir James Dick's only surviving daughter, the heiress of Prestonfield, whose marriage as *Lady Kepperton* has already been mentioned.

Annexed is a copy of Sir William's discharge for serving with horse and arms for the King's service.

Alexander Lord Montgomerie and Kilwinning, &c., Comander appointed be the Lords of his Majestie's privie Councill off the gentlemen and heretors within the jurisdiction of Cunynghame and Kyle (the 2 districts of Ayrshire).





Wm. Alexr. Earle of Glencaigne Lord Kilmarnocht grants  
us to have received from James Cunningham of Southwick  
certain payment of his law duties for the Lands of Southwick  
for the crop and year of god 1712/13 he and his  
discharging him thereof and of all years and terms preceding  
the first of year in which crop was here put in  
the 7<sup>th</sup> of al. sundays the 24<sup>th</sup> of 1712  
1712/13 he and his years before his witness me  
Wm Cunningham jun. Latall to bind John Cuning  
ghame of Southwick and me John Hallen our forlor

Wm. Alexr. Earle

Wm. Alexr. Cunningham Notary  
John Hallen witness

[illegible]

2. 10. 12. 1905

3  
Friedrich Bögers



Thes are testifieing that Sr William Cunynghame of Capringtowne Knight and baronet hath served by himself sufficiently mounted with horse and armes for the King's service and hath punctuallie attended in one of the troups under my comand since the nynteenth day of May last by past                      given under my hand and seall at Londoune the twentie ane day of July 1685 ye<sup>r</sup> and of his Majestie's reigne the ffirst yier

MONTGOMERIE.

Here we have the facsimile of a receipt for payment of feu duties, by James Cunynghame of Southwick, signed by the Earl of Glencairn, the son of the Chancellor of Scotland who, in 1659 raised the Royal Standard in the north without success, owing to his lacking the qualifications necessary to lead so heterogeneous a mass of followers, and was superseded by General Middleton, who had been playing a double game between the Covenanters and the rising sun. He was appointed Commander of the Forces by Charles the II., and at the restoration was made High Chancellor of Scotland for life.

The only allusion to the Duke of York after his accession to the throne as James the II. is made by Sir Alexander Dick in his Memoranda, where he says :—

“In his short reign of 3 years James the II. did everything to support poppery and popish Councils which the Merchants, the Army and Navy, and almost the whole nation, including his own children, held in the utmost abhorrence.”

Sir James Dick, in all his long attendance upon H. R. H. when Duke of York, speaks of him with the utmost respect and regard, and the Duke, on his part, seems to have treated Sir James with marked friendship. His real character, that of a bloodthirsty tyrant, did not appear on the surface in his younger days, when his love of sport and undoubted courage drew the nobility and gentry towards him. Even in Edinburgh his un-



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popularity as a Papist was minimised to a certain extent by the Protestant Princess Anne his wife, who entertained largely at Holyrood, to the great advantage of the town.

On the 24th July 1692, the British Army under William the III., was defeated by the French under Marshall Luxemburg, at Steinkirk. Amongst those left for dead on the battlefield was Sir James Dick's relative, Captain Adam Cunningham, but after some days he revived sufficiently to pencil the following message to his friends.

"Here lies Adam Cunningham by God

"With seven dead Frenchmen all on the sod."

He was promptly removed, and recovering from his wounds, he afterwards married; one of his descendants being the celebrated Adam Maxwell, the handsomest man and greatest Beau in Britain, of whom this tale is related.

<sup>1</sup> "A young man of considerable family by name George Lockhart of Carnwarth had just returned from Italy and France when Beau Maxwell was the man of the day. Greatly esteemed by the ladies of Edin<sup>r</sup> for his pleasant wit and humour and for his fine figure and address. While Mr Lockhart valued himself much for his fine clothes and his polite accomplishments of dancing etc.

These two being often in each others company Beau Maxwell one day out of fun made him a wager, that they should engage the largest ball room and invite all the principal people to a supper and ball, if Mr Lockhart would dress in his highest style, he would undertake to excel him in a dress of the manufacture of the place.

The ladies to be the judges, the loser to pay the expenses.

To this Lockhart agreed: A very large company were invited, and Lockhart was allowed to enter first, which he did in the richest clothes which had been made for him in Paris, and being a gentleman of good appearance and fine figure, he was so showy and magnificent that it was thought impossible for Maxwell to eclipse him.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Alex. Dick's Memo's.

He enjoyed but a short victory, for soon after Maxwell entering at the other end in complete highland dress belted plaid and broad sword, cut one caper and desired permission to dance a sword dance, which he did to the utmost admiration and satisfaction of the whole company, who unanimously declared that he had won the wager and that there was no comparison between the flimsy French fashion and the manly graceful showy and handsome Highland dress, especially when worn by Mr Maxwell. He was accordingly allowed to dance the whole night with the principal lady in the room,"

and Mr Lockhart paid the piper.

In 1694 a plot to assassinate King William, was formed by the Jacobites at the instigation of the late King, James the II, and an insurrection planned to take place at the same time.

The cut throats, chiefly supplied by France, were to attack the King on his return from hunting in February 1696, and at the same time troops and transports were being collected at Calais, to be in readiness for action as soon as the contemplated deed was done.

Fortunately this plot was discovered, and the nation roused to great excitement, the result of which was the following Proclamation to Scotland for the calling out of Officers.

#### A PROCLAMATION

For calling out of the Heritors, and requiring the Flanders Officers, and other Officers, imployed since His Majesty's accession to the Crown to come to Edinburgh.

William by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, To our Lyon King at Armes and his Brethren, Heraulds, Macers of Our Privy Council, Pursevants Messengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute Greeting: Forasmuch as by repeated Advertisements we are informed of an Invasion of Barberous and Bloody Papists, Designed from France upon this our antient Kingdom, whereby it may become the Seat of a Bloody War: For preventing whereof, and Defeating that Design of Our Enemies, We have already, with advice of Our Privy Council, Emitted and Published sundry Proclamations and Orders

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for putting the Country in a Posture of Defence; and finding it further necessary for the effectual Repressing any such Invasion wheresoever it may happen within this our antient Kingdom, that the Heritors who have qualified themselves according to Law, should be in readiness with their best Horses and Arms, to attend our Host wherever they shall be employed for Our Service upon the present Exigence. Therefore, We with the Advice of the Lords of our Privy Council, Require and Command all the Heritors within the Shires mentioned, who have, or will qualify themselves according to Law, by Swearing the Oath of Allegiance and Subscribing the same with the Assurance to Us, and the qualified Tutors and Curators of such as are Minors, to send for their said Pupil or Minor, a sufficient man and Horse well Armed, who with the saids qualified Heritors, with their best Horse and Arms, are to meet and Rendezvouz for the Shires under written upon the Days, at the Places, and to be Commanded by the Officers after specified, viz." . . .

Then follows a list of the different meeting places for each shire on the 12th March, after which it continues—

“And We considering that at present, there are sundry Officers and others belonging to our Army in Flanders com'd over to, and dispersed through this Kingdom, for the better making up the Recruits necessary to the Regiments where they serve, and that they may be very useful at this present Exigence if Employed upon the Occasions and in the places where the said intended Invasion may happen; as also severals who have been employed heretofore as Officers in Our Service, who are now living in several places of the Country out of Employment, may be very steadable at this Juncture, in modeling and otherways ordering such Forces as the Country shall afford to oppose the foresaid Invasion. Therefore We with Advice of the Lords of Our Privy Council, Require and Command all the Officers, and others belonging to Our Armie in Flanders now within this Kingdom etc., etc., with all possible Diligence to hasten and repair to the Town of Edinburgh, and upon their Arrival there immediately to give up their Names to our Privy Council or to Sir Thomas Livingston, Commander in Chief of our Forces within this Kingdom, to the effect that they may be Employed in such service and put in such Commands as shall be found necessar, and expedient for the Advantage and Securitie of the Government; and supressing the Attempts of Our

Enemies by this intended Invasion. OUR WILL IS HEREOF, and We Charge you Strictly, and Command that incontinent these Our Letters Seen, ye pass to the Mercat-Cross of Edinburgh, and to the Mercat-Cross of the remnant Head-Burghs of the several Shires and Stewartries within this Kingdom; And there in Our Name and Authority, make Intimation hereof, that none pretend Ignorance; And appoints our Solicitor to transmit Printed Copies hereof, to the Sheriff and Stewart-Clerks of the haill Sheriffdomes and Stewartries within this Kingdom, with Copies to be transmitted by the said Sheriff, and Stewart Clerks, to the Ministers of the several Paroches within their Bounds, and Ordains the Sheriffs and Stewart Clerks, to cause Publish this present Proclamation at the respective Mercat-Crosses, upon the first Mercat Day, after it shall come to their hands; And appoints the Ministers of the Several Paroches to cause Intimat this Proclamation at their Paroch-Churches, upon the Forenoon after Sermon, the first Lords Day immediately after the same shall come to their hands, and Ordains these Presents to be Printed.

Given under Our Signet at Edinburgh, the sixth Day of March, And of our Reign the seventh year 1696.

Per Actum Dominorum Secreti Councilii

GIBB ELLIOT Cis Sti Concili.

GOD SAVE THE KING."

The result of all this was a close hunt for the conspirators, most of whom were caught and committed to the Tower, where several payed the penalty with their heads. For a good many years after this Jacobitism was but little heard of.

The order for all persons wishing to move from home, to provide themselves with a pass, has already been shown; here is an example of the manner of drawing one out, in favour of Sir William Cunyngham.

Imagine what would be the feeling in these days at having to procure a permit or safe conduct to go into the next county!

"By Adam Cockburne of Ormiston His Majesteis Justice Clerk.

"Permitt Sir William Cunynghame of Caprington with a servant and







# The First Mayor of New York 75

Itt for two buckles to them . . . .	£ „ 00 „ 06 „ —
Itt for Engraving My Lords name on the two collars	£ „ 00 „ 06 „ —
Itt for a brush to Alex Gordon . . .	£ „ 00 „ 02 „ —
Summa . . . .	£ 04 „ 04 „ 00

Received from My Lady Prestonfield full and compleat payment  
of this accompt by Mee

lb Sh

JO MULLIGINES.

4 4

Sir James Dick was succeeded by his grandson William in the year 1728, to whom the following letter is addressed by Captain Dick, who was the real heir male of old Sir William Dick of Braid, and was after first Mayor of New York. He died without heirs male.

“SIR WILLIAM DICK of prestonfield Baronet  
to be left at the old Coffee house Edinburgh.

“DEAR SIR,—The favour done me by yours of the 15th instant in acquainting me of your grandfathers Death and how he has disposed of his estate and that to as soon as you had done looking into his affairs I take as a singular mark of kindness Your grandfathers memorie Shall ever be honoured by me and at this instant it is with the utmost joy and pleasure I wryt to a Sir William Dick Sprung from the Loyns of the first Sir William who from one of the Richest men in the Kingdom was plunder'd Rob'd and Cheated by the then cursed government and nobility and even the Law which was open to all others deneyed to him and his heirs because such large summs would have ruined some of their families however as most of them are founded in iniquity Gods Judgement will pursue them and as Scotland ceases to be a Kingdom may they be extinguished also while the second Sir William enjoys an estate (notwithstanding the misfortunes of his great grandfather) inferior to none of the gentrie in the shyre where he lives, and long may you doe so may your children's children close your eyes in your old days in peace like your grandfather and may you transmitt your estate as free to them as he does to you I beg dear Sir make my humble dutie and service acceptable to your father

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Sir William (Cunyngham) and my Lady long may she be a life renter on the estate of prestonfield and may happiness attend all her family. If your eldest brother be in Town pray give my humble service to him, and my Lady Dalrymple Mr Keiths Lady and your brother the Doctor I wish a happie New Year to all your father's family and that all happiness may ever attend you is the prayers and wishes of      Dear Sir

Your most obedient      Your most obedient  
most humble servant      most humble servant      WILL: DICK

London 26 December 1728

Capt<sup>t</sup> M'Leod and I have drunk your health as Sir William Dick."

Sir William did not live many years, nor did he "transmitt his estate as free" as he received it, for he left a considerable debt behind him, which his brother, Doctor Alexander Cunyngham, who succeeded him as Sir Alexander Dick, honorably paid off.

From this point the narrative becomes more homely, being carried on chiefly by letters from and to different members of the family, and by extracts from the diary of Sir Alexander Dick, and his Anecdote or Memoranda Book. He, as the old account shews, was educated to be a doctor, and after studying in Edinburgh, went to London, whence he took ship to Holland, where he remained for some time, studying under the celebrated physician, Boerhaave, from whom he obtained a diploma.

As an example of the cost of education, and general expense incurred on his account, the following sum will make many parents wish they had lived a hundred and fifty years ago :—

"Memorandum of Money disbursed on acc<sup>t</sup> of my son Alexander from 26 May 1718 inclvsive (this included Drawing Master, Chemistry and other classes) besides all necessary charges for clothes pocket money etc. to this 8<sup>th</sup> May 1724      £96. 11-4—"

In the summer of that year, Alexander set off on his travels,

writing to his father from Durham, where he and his companions broke their journey to London.

“Durham July 9<sup>th</sup> 1724.

Sir

We are all of us got safe so far of our journey this night, thanks to God.

The first day we were pretty well wett before we got to Kelso, but yesterday and today we have both had fine weather and good Road and so far as I have come my horse continues hearty. I find travelling this road with such companions as I have got abundantly agreeable, for my four Buchan Comrades have no small difficulty both in understanding what is spoke and speaking so as to be tolerably understood of the English People which frequently occasions a great deal of mirth from their reciprocal mistakes but especially to me who am very often their Interpreter.

As we past Newcastle this Day about twelve o'clock I thought to have called to see Dr Lawes but both the time of the Day and the desire of the company being to be soon at Durham to see the Cathedral obliged me to pass by him, but I understand both he and S<sup>r</sup> John are very well. I have just now seen Mr Gordon who askt very kindly for you and I promist to see him again before I leave this place. I shall endeavour Sir to fulfill your instructions with all the assiduity I am master of which with my kind Love and duty to my Mother and Grandfather (Sir James Dick) and all oyr friends at Prestonfield who I am obliged to wish well to not forgetting worthy Mr Livingstone Is all from S<sup>r</sup> your dutifull and obedient Son

ALEX. CUNINGHAME.”

To this letter his father replies, giving much good advice against the dangers and temptations of London, which in those days was considered quite on a par with the great Babylon in all that was evil.

“ALEXANDER,—The receipt of two letters from you since parting, one of the 9<sup>th</sup> and the other of the 16<sup>th</sup> current, has not afforded small comfort to your Friends here and at Cameron.<sup>1</sup> We heartily bless Almighty God for your safety, and affectionately wish you the continuance of the same divine protection.

<sup>1</sup> A house on the property, then occupied by “worthy Mr Livingstone.”

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I am glad your journey has been so agreeable to you, and sure you and your fellow-travellers have managed your expenses to a nicety when you have made it at so small a charge, though in a shorter time by a day or two than it is ordinary to do so.

Now that you are at London, where you have so happily found out Mr Murray's house, I doubt not your being accomodated to your mind. I know you will not suffer the trifling amusements of that populous city to divert you from the serious consideration of your duty upon all occasions. I shall not remind you of what I most earnestly recommended to your practice some few days before you left this place, nor of what your kind friend, Mr Lumsden, told you of the dangers to which you might probably be most exposed in order to put you upon your guard against them. No news shall be more agreeable to me and to your other friends than that you are by divine assistance enabl'd boldly to resist all temptation to vice, and diligently to cultivate every good and virtuous disposition with which it has pleased infinite goodness at any time to bless you."

After some personal messages to friends, and more good advice, he concludes—

"This is from yr most affect Father, WILLIAM CUNINGHAME.

In June 1725 his sister Anne married Sir Robert Dalrymple,<sup>1</sup> on which occasion Sir William writes, saying—

"Sir Robert Dalrymple and your sister are both well and I hope shall be happy in one another. . . . I advise you to write at your leisure a letter upon gilt paper without a cover to your sister, Sir Robt. Dalrymple's Lady."

Great notice seems to have been taken of such niceties as gilt edged paper, and, amongst the mass of letters of all description, those from strangers or of a formal nature are all written on gilt-edged sheets.

The seals are for the most part remarkable for their beautiful cutting, and they were invariably used for closing the letters.

On the 6th Nov. 1725, Sir William writes to his son Alexander

<sup>1</sup> Their daughter, described as "severely sensible Miss Dalrymple," was afterwards Countess of Balcarres.



at Leyden, acknowledging the receipt of a Thesis which he presented to Dr Drummond, Senior precis of the College of Physicians,

“who was pleased to express his very great satisfaction with your performance . . . and he did on Tuesday last obligingly present it in your name and mine to the College, then met at their Quarterly Meeting. He was so good as to do this with a handsome encomium, and to move that it might be minuted in their Books of Record. . . . This is such an unusual instance of Kindness and particular Honour done you, as I think most justly deserves your grateful acknowledgements.”

Alexander was only twenty-two years of age when this signal distinction was paid to him, and, his course of study in Holland drawing to a close, he seems to have been anxious to extend it, but his father writes—

“Your Tender Mother and I want to have the comfort I hope you can, under Almighty God, afford us.”

In a letter written a month previous to the above, Sir William tells him—

“Your Mother is now and then made uneasy by the sinking of the spirits which goes off in a short time after taking some drops of a Spirituous Tincture, Nervasa Cardiaca, sold at the shop of George Strachan, Bookseller, near the Royal Exchange, London.

The remedy, here mentioned for the Sinking of the Spirits, being sold at a Bookseller's shop, points to its being one of the quack cures of the day. Alas that so speedy a remedy for the Blues should have passed into oblivion! That such was the nature of the affection and not a fluttering heart is pretty certain, for her ladyship lived to a great age, and her constitution must have been as strong, as her hand was firm in all matters relating to money, as her son Sir William remarks in a future letter, and Allan Ramsay also laughingly testifies. That she had a vulnerable



The next marriage that Sir William announces, with much indignation, is the elopement of Miss Margaret with Mr Robert Keith. It was contrary to the wishes of the family, though for what reason we are not told. The marriage turned out eventually to be a happy and prosperous one, and of their issue two sons have left their mark in the diplomatic annals of our country, as will be seen in due course.

à Leyde.

Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1726

I must acquaint you that to the great vexation of your mother and me as well as of most other Friends your sister Margaret contrary to our advice and what we thought had been her own opinion, on the 27 ultimo made an elopement out of our Family to that of Mr R<sup>t</sup> K——h.<sup>1</sup> Whom you know. Such a degree of disobedience we justly resent and hope to be guarded against all uneasiness of that sort in time to come."

A vain hope, for in spite of the warning of what the paternal wrath would be at such uncalled for behaviour, Alexander, a few

<sup>1</sup> Mr Keith came of the family of the Earl Marischal, and was nearly related to Field Marshall Keith of the German army, a personal friend of Frederic the Great, and one of his most trusted generals. An interesting account of him is given in a work entitled "*A Fallen Star*," where the later days of Prince Charlie tell their own sad tale. There has also been published by the Spalding Club "*A Fragment of a Memoir of Field Marischal James Keith, written by himself, 1714-1734*."

years later, proceeded to follow his sister's example. Being then thirty-three years of age, and a qualified physician, it might naturally be considered that he was entitled to please himself in the selection of a wife in his own rank of life, but Sir William was of a different opinion.

In reply to the last letter Alexander writes to his father :—

Feb<sup>y</sup> 1726

"This elopement which you mention came to my knowledge several weeks past by my acquaintances who had Letters from Scotland. It is a pity that this happening without the advice of Friends, for if I can judge of things by appearances Mr Keith will make a very good Husband tho' indeed the girls disobedience is not to be justified.

Please to let me know more of this matter by your next & likewise how my sister Ann does."

As an instance of the strong feeling which still existed against the English, the following extracts from a letter, written by the Earl of Eglinton on his death-bed to his little son as a guide to his future conduct, will create amusement.

On the copy of the letter is this note :—

"All the Letter in the original is wrote with his own Hand and but a very short time before his Death which was 1729 his son being six years of age."

Sir John Cunyngham of Caprington, Sir Alexander Dick's elder brother, married Lady Betty Montgomerie, elder sister of the recipient of the letter.

MY DEAREST CHILD

I find such decay both in Body and Spirit that I am sensible I cannot live long therefore so long as my Judgement is intire I think myself bound both by the tyes of nature & affection to leave you my best and last Advice for your future Conduct since your tender Age will not allow you to retain them should I recommend them to you by word of mouth."

After giving special injunctions as to how he should rule his

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conduct in his daily life, and towards his family generally, he earnestly entreats him "to avoid gamesters," and also desires he should not "keep Running horses." He then continues :—

"You come to live in a time, my chiefest care, when the right to these Kingdoms comes to be a Question betwixt the House of Hanover, who are in possession, and the descendants of King James. You are in my poor opinion not to intermeddle with either, but live absolutely at Home, manadging your own affairs to the best advantage, and living in a good understanding with your friends and neighbours, for since we are under the misery and slavery of being united to England, a Scotsman without prostrating his Honour can obtain nothing by following a Court, but may bring his Estate under debt, and consequently himself to necessity. It will perhaps be proposed to you to make an English merridge as that which will bring you much money but if English Ladies bring what is considerable with them, they will soon spend it and some of yours, for their Education and way of living differs altogether from ours, therefore make choice of an Scots Lady of a discreet and honourable family, who will apparently be satisfied to live as your wife, and in the end you will be richer with her than with one in an English position."

This letter he desired should be kept until

"You come to twelve or fourteen years of age, and that you may peruse it once every week after you come to that age, for untill you come to some understanding my design will be entirely lost."

He concludes in terms of strong affection and signs "Eglintoun."

The expressions made use of regarding England and the House of Hanover in this letter are a proof of the feeling that prevailed throughout the country, which gradually simmered and came to boiling point in the rising of 1745. The far-seeing advice to stay at home and mind his own concerns probably saved his young son's head, though it is doubtful if he paid much heed to the injunction not to keep running horses; driving matches being one of the amusements mentioned in the *Life of Old Q.* as having taken place between the Earl of Eglinton and the eccentric Duke.

## Chapter V.

Letters from Tongue and Dalgoos—General Wade's Bridge—A Scheme for Protestant Nunneries—An Epidemic—A clandestine Marriage—A constant lover—Allan Ramsay, Painter—A rival lover—The Hunters' ball.

[1734-36]









LADY DALRYMPLE.

## Chapter V.

THE next communications worth recording, as specimens of style, are from Lady Dalrymple to her mother, and from Mrs Mackay to Sir William Cunyngham, in which she announces her safe arrival in Sutherlandshire after she had been paying him a visit. Both ladies write from the same place.

The first letter is addressed to

“The Hon<sup>d</sup> Lady Cuninghame att Prestfield,”

and is dated “29 July 1734.”

DEAR MADAM,—When I saw you att Prestfield I really intended to go no further than Dalgoose (Dalguise) but when I came that length I found myself so well that I went straight forward and we are now all safely arrived att my Lord Reay's House, we was four days att my Lord Sutherland's House, and during the whole journey I kept my health perfectly well, and my horse never once stumbled. The Master and Mistress of Reay lives twenty miles from this where we intend to be this week, but because we had travelld so far my Lord and Lady Reay would not let us stir till we were rested for some days at Tongue. The Mistress of Reay was Brought to bed on the 17th of a fine Boy called Robert. She is recovering very well. Sir Robert offers his humble Duty to your Lsp and my Father as does Dear Madam

Your Dutyfull Daughter & humble ser<sup>vt</sup>

ANN DALRYMPLE.

Mrs Mackay addresses her letter to

“Sir William Cuninghame of Capringtown at his Lodgings att the Syne of the Eagle Landmarket South Side of the Street Edinburgh.”

In it she says—

“You cannot imagine Sir how much better the Rods are than I expected and this place is very pretty and my Lord Reay has made the

gairdens very pretty and has very fine fruit I have no more att present  
but to tell you and my Lady Cuninghame I am Dear Sir your obedient  
humble servant to command  
MARION MACKAY."

Lady Dalrymple writes next to her father, and addresses it—

"Sir William Cuninghame of Capringtoun att Edinburgh.

21st June 1735

## Dalgoos

DEAR SIR,—I had a letter from you last night which gave me the good news of your health and my mothers. I have reason to thank God I have agreed most surprisingly with the goat whey.<sup>1</sup> I ride every day which has done me great service and has a good clever stomach and quick digestion in short I am vastly mended since I came to this country. Yesterday I was att Lord Broadalbins house 12 mils<sup>2</sup> from this a very charming place and on our way we saw Gen<sup>r</sup> Wades new Brige over the River Tay<sup>3</sup> really vastly pretty we returned that same day and I was no ways tird so Dear Sir I think that is no Bad acct of me. Jeanie Maxwell is very well and is to dine with us this day. Lady Suttie and Sir James offer their compliments to you. My humble dutty to my mother and am  
Sir y<sup>r</sup> obedient Daughter  
A. DALRYMPLE.

The inside sheet of this letter has been utilised by Sir William in writing the following proposition, which was somewhat difficult to decipher.

"Mem. Concerning the unmarried Ladies of Brittain in order to induce them to enter protestant nunneries under due Regulations."

"It has been very frequently regretted by many of the most sincere well wishers to the Ladies and Gentlewomen of this Island that they have not the opportunity of retiring from the world *at a certain age* into some convenient place where they may be in comfortable Society with one another Devote themselves to the more immediate service of Almighty God. I doubt not but in this opinion the persons for whose accomodation the following scheme is humbly proposed will readily agree when they seriously consider how nauseous the foolishness of the play houses and the Balls Masquerades and even Assembly houses become after one is arrived at full maturity and . . . (illegible) Judgement, and that when Youth and perhaps Beauty have declined but a Little the once very gay

<sup>1</sup> A cure much in vogue in those days.

<sup>2</sup> 12 Scots miles are about equal to 13½ Imp. miles.

<sup>3</sup> At Aberfeldy.

## Scheme for a Protestant Nunnery 87

but truly virtuous Ladys become rather the objects of scorn than of esteem to the deluded generality of men.

It is therefore propos'd as a proper remedy for this most evident inconvenience that a project be formed of having in Great Brittain protestant nunneries ordered by authority of parliament under such regulations as shall seem to the R. R. the Bishops and other clergy of this Island most proper for the glory of God and the solace of the Ladies.

It may be modestly represented forth to the R. R. the B<sup>p</sup> of Durham in a Letter directed to them that he be pleased to consult with the rest of his Venerable Order about an affair of this Consequence, and if it shall be found agreeable to the Interests of Religion and for the benefit of Society in General as well as for the true solace of the Ladies in particular it may be laid before the parliament for giving authority to the erection of such protestant nunneries within the several Dioceses of G<sup>r</sup> Brittain as shall be voluntarily gone into by the Ladies under such regulations always as shall be maturely conceived by the Bishops and Clergy aforesaid.

The B<sup>p</sup> of Durham might be humbly acquainted that upon the supposition this project for protestant nunneries were agreed to in manner above written it is not doubted but some ladies from Scotland who are of the Communion of the Church of England would joyfully embrace the opportunity of retiring into one of such that should be erected within his diocese and perhaps the place where such erection might be made were most agreeable at Sedgfield."

Evidently Sir William had been seeing more of his female relatives than he quite appreciated, and so had become anxious to find a comfortable retirement for "ladies of a certain age," at a safe and convenient distance.

But the scheme so carefully conceived, did not receive encouragement from the worthy prelate of Durham, who, in a lengthy *résumé* of two sheets of foolscap closely written, gives his reasons against such a nunnery as Sir William suggests.

The document is dated "March 24th 1736-7," "I have some doubts", says Prebendary Sharp, "how far any of our sex are



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proper judges for them (i.e. ladies who have passed the flower of their youth) in such a matter as this." He then proceeds to give his reasons, point by point. Of these it is sufficient to quote the concluding sentences.

"There are no religious exercises which the ladys can perform in their monastery, but what they can as well perform out of it. . . . And in a word, I am persuaded, that, if everybodys pretences to publick usefulness were fairly sifted and examined, we should find these maids and matrons whom y<sup>r</sup> scheme invites out of common life, both capable of doing and actually doing as much real good in life as their neighbours ; and more good than all the young things that have not passed the flower of their age, put together."

So excellent a sentiment deserves to be recorded.

During the years of 1735 and 1736 there was a severe epidemic of measles, which in some cases was followed by small-pox, then a terribly common scourge, and most grievous in its ravages.

The letters which follow refer to this gruesome complaint, and are addressed to Lady Cunyngham by her daughter Lady Douglas.

"Kinmount Dec 2. 1735

"DEAR MADAM,—I'm hopefull this will find you and my Father very well.

I have sent the Bearer for my Woman, the Horses should have come before now, but the weather has been so very bad that ther was no such thing as travelling in this country for this month past.

I proposd to have been to wait on you in town about Christmas ; but shall be detaind by the Measells which is now in the Famelly and lays my account with the Children taking y<sup>m</sup> before they leave us. My sister Miss Nelly has been very bad of them but is beginning now to recover. My Lady Douglas is gone to Dumfrice, she desired I should make her compliments to you and my Father, her and I both expects you in this Country in Summer and we are both of the opinion y<sup>e</sup> should have been here before this but will more readily forgive you if y<sup>e</sup> make no more delays. Sir

John joyns with me in our Humble Duty to you and my Father and believe me to be on all occations Dear Madam

Your affectionate Daughter and humble  
obedient Servant

CHRISTE DOUGLAS.

Again, writing in Feby. 1736, she says :—

“Sir John was Desired to have gon for London next week his election being to be decided on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month but I have persuaded him to give it up being asured in all events it could be of no advantage to him but on the contrayer so he has wrot to Mr Erskine of Grainge to give it up in the House of Commons.

I oune I have no notion of serving great folks at the expense of person and purse My children are all very well, I'm advised to keep them on a slender diet the Measells being often succeeded by the Small Pox I shou'd be glad to hear of Sister Peggie's<sup>1</sup> safe delivery to whom I offer my compliments as also to sister Ann when you have occasion to write.”

The next letter is from Mrs Keith, shewing that her elopement had been forgiven, as she says in it :—

“I find you are no better traveller than you used to be else I should have had the pleasure of a visit from you . . . The bairns are extremely well, I am to begin Jeny to write on her birthday. Roby<sup>2</sup> is doing very well at his Silabing, Nancy is thickir and shorter than ever and her hair every day redder, Bazil<sup>3</sup> walks as well as I do” etc., etc.

Lady Dalrymple writes to her mother :—

“I thank God Anne<sup>4</sup> is much better her fevour has left her but she has a mighty bad cough, however Dr Reid says that always attends the measels. I have no time to write to Peggy please tell her this to make her easy . . . There is a report here that there are several thieves brought

<sup>1</sup> Mrs Keith.

<sup>2</sup> Afterwards Sir Robert Keith, Ambassador at the Courts of Denmark and Vienna. “Sir Robert, or Ambassador Keith, as he was commonly called, the affectionate, accomplished, and witty gentleman, and the rescuer, under most critical circumstances, of the unfortunate Caroline Matilda, Queen of Denmark.”—*Lives of the Lindsays*.

<sup>3</sup> Also very distinguished, and created a K.C.B. ; later, Governor of Jamaica.

<sup>4</sup> Afterwards Countess of Balcarras.

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to the tollbooth and that there was a chest with Lining been found. Dr Madam send somebody to the tollbooth to enquire in case it should be my stolen webs."

These letters have been given to show, not only the style of the day, but also the very deferential manner of addressing a parent, as well as the punctilious manner of refering to a sister as *Miss Nelly*, and *Lady Douglas*.

Nothing, however, assists more vividly in realizing and sympathizing with the thoughts and feelings of a past generation than that little word of four letters LOVE. It brings the dry bones to life. It makes those of bygone days instantly in touch with ourselves.

When young Alexander Cunyngham returned from Holland and France a full-blown doctor, he promptly fell under Cupid's influence, and that, unfortunately, in a direction displeasing to his parents. This, however, did not make him relinquish the fair lady, Miss Dick of Clermiston, a distant cousin of his own, whom he married clandestinely, taking only two friends into his confidence. One of these was old Allan Ramsay, the poet, with whom he was on very intimate terms, and with whose son he formed a project of going to Italy to study art, and whatever else might take his fancy. The name of his other friend remains unknown. His father Sir William seems to have encouraged the idea of travelling, evidently hoping it might cure him of his infatuation; but Alexander settled the question by marrying the lady first, and trusting to luck and his friends' influence to calm the paternal wrath afterwards. That his second and most sympathetic friend, was suffering from the same malady as himself, is shown by the following letters, though in this case the lady showed no sign, and the gentleman's state of mind in consequence

was far from being a happy one. The letters are unsigned, and no trace of the identity of their author has as yet come to light.

They are addressed to

“Doctor Alex. Cuninghame, to be found at the Rainbow Coffee House in Lancaster Court, London.

“I own myself to blame for having delay’d answering your letter so long, when both its friendship and elegance requir’d the speediest acknowledgment.

Since the receipt of it I went to Clermiston and communicated to your Belvidera your kind sentiments and the reluctance you had to leave her. I found the getting your letters at last had eas’d her, but that it was impossible to reconcile her to your travels beyond the seas.

I have spoke to your brother John and Mr Keith upon the point you mention in your letter to be mov’d to your Father, but they have told me he would be inexorable and told me that next to dropping your marriage nothing could have pleased him better than your going abroad, because he imagines Travelling may make you forget your love. I have likewise wrote to Lady Dalrymple who is at the goat whey but have not time yet for an answer. Upon the whole my friend, both Maitland and I are strong in the opinion that you still ought to return home, that balancing accounts and considering whether your dropping a scheme there was no reason for following out but your own pleasure, so leaving a woman you had just married, or were going to marry would sound worse in the ears of the world I believe few will hesitate. I am sure too nobody that shall know your situation at present, or even the supposition of y<sup>r</sup> leaving only a mistress, but will absolve you of fickleness and inconstancy and on the contrary, will accuse you of them if you do go. Keith seemed to blame you more for travelling than for y<sup>r</sup> intended marriage and the truth is I had less to say in your defence.

I hope my Friend you’ll excuse me still for insisting so much in a point you appear’d determin’d in the last time you wrote, but my anxiety for serving you, my collecting as you see the opinions of others, and the goodness you receiv’d my almost indecent freedom in my last letter encourages me still to harp upon a string I imagine is mistun’d to the rest of your Harmony.

As for my affairs, as you write the death of the Father can be no loss she is left 12,000 M<sup>ks</sup>. I have seen her in the country, but kept in generals, so far as I could Judge I was neither well or ill received but men



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in my condition are blind. I am ten times more in love than ever, and ten times more than ever I despair, so I have been in a very poor case since your departure.

I see an absurdity in pretending to propose to her friends, and to gain her I believe must be more than Herculean labour. Her sense may lead her to despise a Coxcomb, but the same sense I am afraid will lead her to make no step in my favour who can insure her no Jointure. When you write (which I expect you'll do with first post) I desire you'll say something either to comfort me or to make me despair altogether, seeing I cannot live in this state of uncertainty. You and Baillie have got your wish I am like to prove a constant lover with a vengeance." "June 15."

At this point we have Allan Ramsay, junr., writing to arrange to meet Dr Alexander in London to start on their travels.

"Ed. May 25 1736

DEAR DOCTOR,—As soon as I received yours this forenoon I went out to Clermiston and delivered the enclosed,<sup>1</sup> together with the double letter to Sandie, which, I said, had been detained at the post-office, which in reality has been the fate of the other letters that you sent me, since that was the only frank'd one which came to my hand. The affair of the furniture was only a trifling hint of her Ladyships, which she is so wise as not to insist on, and I assure you M. D.<sup>2</sup> wants for nothing which is necessary to make her life very comfortable. I cannot recollect anything so material about your affairs here as to merit a place in writing, things are much in the same state that they were before you went away. As to what concerns myself I have finished my pictures, taken leave of most of my friends, and prepared my baggage to be sent away with the carriers against Friday, with a design to set out myself on the Tuesday or Wednesday thereafter. Pray, dear Doctor, put an end to your Law as soon as possible, for I shall be as Idle in London as I am in Edr. at present writing. Your taking my friendly zeal to serve you in so just a light confirms me entirely in the good opinion I always conceiv'd of you, as your return for it, helps me no less to give me a very favourable notion of myself. Except something particular occurs you'll probably not hear again from me till I shall have the satisfaction of telling you from my own mouth how much I am, dear Dr, your sincere friend,

ALLAN RAMSAY Junr."

<sup>1</sup> Allan was not then aware that his friend was actually married.

<sup>2</sup> Miss or rather Mrs Dick.



Again in July 1736 the incognito writes :—

“I had yours, my Friend, last post, which, so far as concernd you, to use your words, gave me joy in the reading and fresh assurances of your Friendship.

I sent the first part of your letter to Clermiston, being unable to go myself by reason of the Toothache, which at present torments me, if any bodily pain in respect to what I suffer otherwise deserves such an appellation. Besides speaking to K. and your brother John, I wrote to Lady D. desiring she would deal with your Father and let me know whom I could most rely on to second her, but I have had no answer from her. I am sorry I did not speak to your Father myself before he set out on his journey, but I shall if you please write to him, and in the meantime shall deal with Mr Harper to do the same. Believe I have your interests much at heart. What occurs to me at present to advise you is that you would tell the whole story in a letter to your B John. He seems to me to take it amiss you had so little intrusted him with your designs. I gave him not the least hint of your being already married, so that I imagine your showing confidence in him, by discovering the whole secret may probably make him exert himself in serving you. However, you must know him better than I do ; so I only pretend to give you a hint.

As for my own case, my Friend, your words of comfort, as you call them, came clogg'd most damnably with despair. The heir of 500 a year my rival, with a great degree of assurance and a lac'd waistcoat.

True my enchantress has sense and is no coquet, but will not her sense and no coquetry lead her to prefer my rival and be constant to one who first made addresses to her? Will she not take the chance of his constancy and the Grandfather's dying in two years? Will not H——n's banishment appear meritorious in her eyes? However, you have done well in giving intelligence of my adversary and the difficulties I have to grapple with. I conjure you further by our friendship that by all means you learn if there be any correspondance between them. If there is, it must the sooner put me out of pain, by cutting off all hopes in my unhappy Passion. However, you can acquire this piece of Intelligence, you can never think it any breach of confidence to your fellow-traveller, since it answers a good end in delivering your friend some months sooner from the Rack, and can never harm the other, as I swear by fair honesty it never shall through me. The family is still at the goat whey ; I shall see them as they return, and per-

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haps in (here the paper is torn)—certainly often next winter, since they are to live in Town; but as to behaving briskly and making my addresses with boldness, believe me without exaggeration, I could more easily make love to one of your Princesses. I have been too much in love not to have already appeared a sheep in her eyes, and the consciousness of that must perpetually make me look like an Idiot.

I shall write soon to Baillie if I can, for I think I begin to be as unfit for all manner of busines as for making Love."

The next letter on this subject is addressed to

"DR CUNINGHAME, Chez Mons Belloni, Banqueir, in Rome.

Edin. 21 Decr. 1736

DEAR DOCTOR,—I received your letter from Rome with a great deal of pleasure, and the more that it was wrote after your misfortunes, for as prosperity relishes better after adversity so one values their friend the more that they were near losing him.<sup>1</sup> "After scrambling ashore you might have said with ye Poet—*post varios casus per tot discrimene verum tendentes ad Latium.*

I admired your calmness and serenity in dangers, but did not find it inconsistent with the rest of your character. I saw Mrs Cuninghame three weeks ago, who looks extremely well on't, but you may believe your shipwreck will make her the more anxious till you return. I find I still ly under the displeasure of your Parents for the message I carried them; for some days ago I accosted your good Father on the street, who return'd my compliments with a bow only and walkt off without speaking a word. However, Baillie Arbuthnot, whom I employed for an Intercessor, tells me since he has been expostulating the matter with Sir Wm., and that he has found him very obstinate at first, but that before he parted with him he shewd some signs of tender heartedness and discover'd some appearances of approaching reconciliation, so that I begin to flatter myself by the time you return home you shall receive a blessing from your Parents.

Your wife, by the prudence and staidness of her behaviour, does all in her part, and thereby must lay a foundation of a good character for ever. I have no other news to tell you. Our common friends are all well and I am well myself, the worse only for having lost two valuable Parents, Lord Newhall and Uncle Robert, who are universally regretted.

<sup>1</sup> Alluding to his being shipwrecked, which is described later.

I am going this evening to the Hunter's Ball, where I shall see Belvidera for the first time after my expedition to her Castle in the Country. I go armed with Philosophy and length of Absence, not however without some dread of the consequence. My happy Rival is at Alicant, I think in Spain, and is recovering of an Homoptoe w<sup>h</sup> was threatening. The Expedition by-the-bye seems to have been imprudent in him & his companion.

I was too long thinking to write so you'll excuse my hurry when I tell you the Ball is already begun & I have not yet dress'd & I could not delay lest I should have missed you at Rome. I shall only add a comission from Mr Calderwood. . . . When you go to Bologna enquire for one Molinelli (a young physician there an understanding man & a fellow student with me at Paris) and make him my compliments.

As for my nephew Mr Hall who is now in Italy I need not desire you to seek his acquaintance or to give him y<sup>r</sup> advice."

As will be seen from the above letter Alexander Cunyngham and Allan Ramsay jun<sup>r</sup> were already in Italy. Their journey and adventures *en route* are related in a diary kept by the former, wherein he describes his fellow traveller as "a most ingenious young man of twenty-three years of age," ten years younger than himself. The journey is best told in his own words, though here and there it is condensed for the sake of brevity, but to this a fresh chapter must be devoted.



## Chapter VI.

Journey to France—King Louis XV.—En route for Italy—The Exchange at Marseilles—Voyage in a Tartane—Robbed at Genoa—Shipwrecked—Don Carlos at Leghorn—Across the Campagna to Rome.

July to October [1736]





## Chapter VI.

SIR ALEXANDER DICK, or as he was then styled Mr Alex. Cunyngham, begins as follows :

“On the 24th of July 1736 Mr Ramsay and I left London and came to Dover in the Coach with a jolly English Parson, a crabbed lawyer, a Frenchman, who was Lord Vane’s Superintendant and a very odd looking bearish hypochondriacal man going to Aix la Chapelle for his health. We admired the verdure and the fine cultivated fields in Kent, the numerous Hop gardens ready to blossom, and Cherry orchards; the people and cattle in good plight the Towns and villages neat and clean, and the market places filled with abundance of every good eatable thing; the roads pleasant and good, the Inns numerous and well served, the coachmen rather rough and absolute and more attentive to their horses than the Company. Our conversation brightened up as the day advanced after we had ate and drank together. We took the packet boat at Dover in the evening of the 25th and lay all night above deck on our passage to Calais, which was very agreeable with a fair wind. Our Company were Dunkirk merchants, and several French gentlemen with whom we entered into conversation in french as Mr Ramsay and I had been early accustomed to speak that language at home, both from my father early initiating me in it, which he himself spoke well; but likewise from my having been three years abroad as a student of medicine in Holland and three months at Paris, about ten years before this period.

Mr Ramsay and I therefore made a resolution to speak no other language but French while we remained in France, and upon our arrival in Italy no other language but Italian, as we had been well founded in it before we left Edinburgh.

On the morning of the 26th we arrived at Calais, and were less troubled with Custom-house officers than at Dover, everything of that kind being better regulated in France than in England.

One of our Flemish merchants was in person very like my brother, Sir Will Dick, and gave us a favourable account of his travels in England, and of the flourishing condition of the city of Dunkirk.

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At Calais there was a very lean gentleman who dined with us at the Inn, and from circumstances that we had not leisure to enquire into, expressed a great reluctance for parting with us, as we were immediately to set out for Paris; it being warm weather our posting equipage happened not to be suitable to the modes of France, but we followed our own way for coolness, being in our white stockings without boots, to the great surprise of all the frenchmen we met. . . .

A Dr Hay, who had been in the Rebellion 1715, and a great partisan of that cause, found us out immediately we arrived (at Boulogne), and gave us a very kind reception, and by him we were invited to dine with Mr Smith, the great Scotch wine merchant there; who had been formerly in that same cause, and entertained us with many various scenes in which they both had been concerned in that disastrous business, of which he said he made the most of it by following a trade very beneficial, which he hoped soon afterwards would lead him to Scotland to purchase a landed estate in his own country. . . .

*July 30.*—Went to Chantilly, where the Duke of Burbon's<sup>1</sup> fine palace is; there we saw the most magnificent stables in Europe, which contain many hundreds of the finest Horses, with every accommodation for them. On every hand there were fine gardens and water-works without, and rich furniture, Paintings, Tapestry, and Statues within; particularly those of Condé and Turenne, with all their Battles painted near them. Came to Paris that night about four o'clock, went to lodge at Mr Robert's Bagnio, where we were well bathed and served, but paid very dear for what we had in that house. We met there with Mr Horn, Lord Drumore's son, and Mr Oswald of Dunnikear.<sup>2</sup> Went with them to see the Palais Royal, and in the evening went to the Italian comedy; both which places gave us very great entertainment. The first has the noblest collection of Pictures in Europe, and belongs to the Duke of Orleans, the son of the Regent, the first Prince of the blood in France. . . .

*August 2.*—Saw that day the Luxumberg Gallery, with all the fine paintings of Reubens there. Walked afterwards in the Gardens, which are well kept but not in the best taste, little of nature, all is regularity, the walks are very broad, where there are often a vast resort of good company, extremely well dressed, the Ladies are all painted, and the red of their cheeks has a very flaming appearance; the married Ladies' chiefly being laid on without mercy, which makes a sad havoc on natural beauty, but is

<sup>1</sup> Bourbon.

<sup>2</sup> Dunnikier in Fife.

of particular solace to Ladies coming into years: for by covering their wrinkles it puts them upon a level with the young beauties, who would soon eclipse them in every respect. . . .”

Referring to the “Invalids, a Royal Hospital for wounded and old Soldiers,” he writes :

“It is of great extent, great elegance and magnificence in the Architecture, and has the best contrivance in the arrangement of the wards, and good regular orders, that I have seen ; the best that are observed in any hospital in Europe ; it contains some thousands of men who have bravely and long served their country, or have bled in its Cause. We went from thence to the Opera, but did not much admire the music, which was entirely in the French taste, loud and noisy, great in the execution, but very mean and little in the harmonious part, which belongs to good music. . . .

*Aug. 4.*—Went with Mr Diggs to the Church of St Genevieve, there saw the pious Duke of Orleans and his sister, the Queen of Spain, who came to assist at the solemnity (St Genevieve's day, the Patroness of Paris). The music we heard there was very good, went from thence in the evening to the concert Spirituelle in the King's Palace, where we heard the best performers in France, and the composition of the Italian taste. . . . We went with Mr Oswald to see King Stanislaus, the Queen's father, at his country Palace of Meudon, where he lived in retirement and elegance after the bustling disagreeable life he had while King of Poland, from which he was driven to his good.

The King<sup>1</sup> and his daughter, the Queen, made him frequent visits, and often consulted him in matters of State.

At Versailles—“The water works and Cascades were extremely showy, they were erected and kept at an immense charge, they play but seldom, and that on great occasions ; it was our good fortune that some Polish Ladies having arrived, who were relations to the Queen, one of whom was indeed exceeding handsome ; the water works was ordered to play for their entertainment, and the Ladies were conducted in little hand chariots pushed forward by some of the guards, to all the water-works in the Gardens, which gave us the best of opportunities of seeing the whole. . . .

The King's Stables are very magnificent and all filled with the finest Horses, to serve them for the diversion of Hunting, in which he is every day occupied with a circle of his Courtiers and favourites ; we saw him one

<sup>1</sup> Louis XV.



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day in the Chapel attending the morning's mass, he has a good countenance and manly, but is underlimed in his walking, yet he makes a fine figure on horseback.

Everything in Versailles has the look of too great an expence and too much show, consequently the taste is not universally good, though it must be owned there are a great many fine things there. . . .

It was now time for us to turn our faces south towards Italy. . . .

*Aug. 29.*—Mr Ramsay and I set out for Italy by way of Lyons in the water coach, upon the river Seine, drawn by horses against the stream. We had a great variety of company, good and bad. Monks, Priests, Soldiers, Sailors, Merchants, and others; in general they were very noisy, eat, drank, and sung perpetually, and at night those that did not go ashore lay in the Boat all heckledepickedly, which is their usual custom. There was a Knight of Malta and a Flandrican with a big belly, a bragadoshio Burgundian, several old gentlewomen, and a garda corps, who sang merry songs in french. Mons Marbleu a Gascon, and a Swiss gentleman who was always asleep, and Mons Darly an Italian, and an English Abbot. We contracted more intimacy with the Knight of Malta and Mons Darly the Italian, in order to improve ourselves in their language.

*Sept. 2.*—From Auxerre we set out in the Coach or Diligence for Challon in Burgundy.

*Sept. 6.*—Came to Challon, and after Breakfast we set out in the Cochedeau, where we were very well accomodate and were very cheerful and merry; here we had fine Prospects, delightful villages, beautiful Collines planted with vines, Gardens and Country Seats, for forty miles, . . . We went down the river quickly, and were surprised how well the sailors that work these water coaches caught the turns of the river, and how cleverly they bring the vessel off when it runs aground, and how they change the horses. Here we had nothing spoke of by the military men in our company, or those we happened to meet with, but the Fates of the French on the Rhine; but especially in Italy where they pretended all to have been, they spoke much of the wounds they had received in the different actions, the bad eating in Italy, and the Massacre of Parma at the Castle which happened there lately. The rough old soldier and a young one in our company differed much about facts. We observed the French soldiers were in general ill-clothed, but they said it was universally expected there would be a reform.

*Sept. 8.*—We entered Lyons this day, the view of it on approach is



extremely picturesque. . . . We stayed but one night at the Noah's Ark.

The Italian gentleman, M. Darly, set out with us early in the morning for Marseilles by the Cochedeau, which comes down the river very fast to Avignon, in our company we had a strange mixture of riff-raff sort of people, particularly a very witty comical girl of Lyons, a Provincial Priest who was very entertaining, a Slatern from Marseilles without virtue or modesty, a Roman with his wife and daughter, who gave good diversion. As we went along we got every now and then a fresh Cargo of Cordileres and Capuchin Monks.

*Sept. 12.*—Came to Avignon, where we saw a Synagogue and the Pope's Palace, a young Hebrew in our company attacked with argument one of our Priests, which gave us no small diversion, the Jews here and all over the Pope's dominions are obliged to wear yellow hats. . . . Arrived at Aix, a very fine agreeable Town, very well built and well watered and pleasantly situated, the streets like those of Leyden in Holland, planted with tall lime trees in the flower, the Parliament house lofty, magnificent, and richly ornamented with gilding. We stayed two days here at the Croix de Malte, where I bought me a tye-wig to put me in proper dress when I should arrive in Italy to present my letters of recommendation.

*Sept. 15.*—Set out for Marseilles, a noble and very ancient city formerly a Greek colony . . . here we arrived for 4 livres. The chaise came through a pretty rough road into a most large and spacious Amphitheatre, of a Country. . . .

When we arrived at the city, the magnificent broad street and the great appearance of trade were very striking; when we entered into the great Exchange where the merchants assemble we observed them all extremely well dressed, looking like noblemen and gentlemen of the first distinction, and a politeness seemed to reign there unknown in most of all the commercial places we had ever seen. What added to the magnificence of the assembly was the great number of Persian, Armenian, Turkish and Egyptian merchants dressed in their Turbans and long Robes after the manner of their several countries; the air of all these people having a great gravity and solemnity in it, but it was melancholy to meet with now and then the galley slaves, mostly Turks, two and two chained together, some of them gentlemen formerly of great condition, they are allowed, however, to keep coffiehouses when they behave well, and compliment strangers with the sound of a trumpet, when they arrive in town, which brings them some

little perquisites. The Port of Marseilles for the shipping is a very fine one well guarded. The King of France has sixteen gallies here wrought by the slaves. Great care is taken here with respect to the bills of health, upon the Account of the Plague, which often rages in the Levant . . . there was the greatest reason for this caution because in the year 1720 the Plague was imported into that fine city which had very near depopulated it totally, had not the good Bishop of Marseilles exerted an uncommon police during the rage of the Pestilence, and the precautions which the French King took at the line of circumvalation, to prevail it spreading farther into the Kingdom.

*Sept. 16.*—Having procured a bill of health, we set out from Marseilles in a Tartane for Antibes, with a benedictine Friar, a French corporal who pretended to be an officer, and a gentleman from the town of Nice. We lay mostly on deck upon packs of wool, but in an inconvenient manner, the accommodation below deck was still worse, we were at length very much becalmed and very warm, the sailors, the Captain and the coast of France, afforded us some diversion as we sailed along.

*Sept. 19.*—Wearied at length of the Tartane and the calm, we desired to be set ashore at Cannes, from whence next morning we walked to Antibes, through a most delightful spot of plantations of vines, Figs, Almonds and Pomegranates and fragrant fields, we went from Antibes that morning to Nice, where we had our first view of Italy, the women were dressed differently from the French in their hair and in their cloathes. From not taking due precautions in the night time by placing the nets round the Beds, we were bit prodigiously by musqueto's during the night, and by not a few boggs into the bargain.

*Sept. 20.*—It was here we saw the great fishing for Anchovas which is done by a great tract of long nets pulled into the shore, where the fish are pickled and barreled soon after they are taken.

*Sept. 21.*—We set out for Genoa in a Felouche, with two Egyptian merchants and our old friend Mr Darly in our company, we came late to Monaco that evening . . . we were carried before the Prince's superintendent and examined in all the forms.

*Sept. 23.*—Arrived at Genoa, where we observed a very noble appearance in the entry of the port with the Palaces, Gardens, etc. . . .

We lodged at the Croce di Malta, and had occasion that evening to sup with some considerable French and Spanish officers and sat with them till it was pretty late; Mr Ramsay and I were then conducted to a very noble

apartment of two beds, I chose the one next the door, the servant who lighted us up to our chamber I remember was dressed in green, and a very genteel fellow, of which some notice will afterwards be taken ; for during the night there was stole out of my breeches, that were hung upon a chair, 14 luisdores, by some rogue who had got into the bed chamber, and had the archness to put in place of the gold, coarse brass money called Par-paioles about the value of our halfpennies, he did not touch my gold watch nor some rings that I had ; I did not come to discover this till Mr Ramsay and I were going to pay the bill. I made a great noise to the Landlord who seemed very much concerned for the credit of his house. . . . I told him I suspected some of his own servants, and if he found out the truth to write to me at Rome, which he accordingly did . . . the criminal happened to be that very servant in the green cloaths. The landlord made the discovery by the fellows losing luidores at play—he afterwards confessed it and was sent to the gallies for life. Let no one who travels be too ready to show their purses, that they have gold in them. . . .

In return for much entertainment from these foreign travels, please take a copy of my advice to a friend travelling in England—

Be sure Dear Dempster when you go to bed,  
To lay your breeches snug beneath your head ;  
Throw them not off with a neglectful ease  
If you regard your money or your keys :  
For many a thief will rob them on a chair,  
Tho to disturb your pillow would not dare.  
Think you at Inns, that you have nought to fear,  
Have Ostlers then antipathies at beer ?  
Has the brisk Waiter got no Paramour ?  
Has bootcatch taen the vow of being poor ?

They were sending daily Troops and money in their gallies to prosecute the war, they then had against King Theodore in Corsica. It was our fortune to meet here in Genoa with an English clergyman, one Mr Smith of Posturtham, a nephew of the great Sir Isaac Newton ; he was desirous to be of our company to proceed through Italy by the way of Leghorn, to this we agreed and hired betwixt us a Felucca.

*Sept. 25.*—Set out coast ways for Leghorn and came to Sestri, where as the wind was not fair we stayed 2 nights with a Spanish family, here for want of attention I lost my wig I lately purchased.

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*Sept. 28.*—Set out at three in the morning, dined at Porto Fino, which was so full of Spaniards and Genoese that there was not the least room for us to be accommodated . . . as it happened there were several Spanish men of war and transports that night in the Bay, who had returned from the Conquest of Naples under the conduct of the Conte' de Montemar the Commander-in-Chief who at that time was residing in Pisa.

At our setting out we passed six Spanish men-of-war, the sea then quite calm and agreeable, but about ten o'clock at night opposite to Massa, we were overtaken by a dreadful storm, the sea in a moment had a most ferocious aspect, continually increasing with immense billows, the wind varying often from different quarters; in this dreadful manner we were tossed till about three next morning, having our Rudder broke, our Compass useless, our men dispirited, the sea and the winds rising, the moon not up, and at length there appeared no hope, not the least to remain for our safety; our Genoese sailors at the oars invoked all their saints; an English sailor who happened to be in the crew, and an old man the Master of the felucca who was at the rudder, were the only two who showed spirit, though the moving complaints of the old man's little son in the most plaintive Italian would have melted a heart of stone, particularly of his remembrance of his Cara Madre and his Care Sorellé. Our Reverend Clergyman Mr Smith and his man Tom, who were both stript in order to swim, had many grievous moanings betwixt them fearing a sudden separation for ever. Mr Smith though Sir Isaac Newton's nephew happened to be a very bad astronomer, insisting that he saw the lights of Leghorn and contended that we should steer towards that, but we were soon undeceived by observing that the light came from one of two stars. Mr Ramsay, who was a good swimmer stript likewise; but for myself who could not swim I reckoned on certain death, but before I gave all up I thought best to examine what wine we had yet remaining, and having got several flasks full, I instantly distributed them amongst our sailors, making them a short speech in Italian, repeating the word *animo, animo mi fratelli* (courage, courage, my brethren), and particularly addressing myself to the Padroni and the English sailor who I conjured not to lose heart, which he promised not to do as long as he could keep hold of it, I last addressed myself to Mr Smith and his man Tom desiring them not to lose hopes of meeting one another in a better place, and lastly I said what occurred to me in the most moving manner to my friend and dear travelling companion, Mr Allan Ramsay, and took out my gold watch and rings to see if he could fasten them any



way to his arms, and if he should escape anyhow by swimming that he would deliver my watch and rings to my much beloved young wife I had just married before I set out, with my prayers and imprecations for his safety . . . that as I could not swim I could make no efforts for my safety and instantly covered myself up with an old sail as a winding sheet and bidding them all farewell and calling out *Animo, animo* to the sailors, most devoutly resigned myself over to my fate; all this while the sea mountains high over all white with froth easily discernible by the fiery vapour which rises always in a storm: at last by the perseverance of our men and mercy of Divine Providence, the wind chopt about to blow from the sea towards the land with the greatest empetuosity and on the 29th in the morning our felucca was violently cast upon shore at the bottom of a large wood where there was neither rocks nor high banks, not far distant from the city of Pisa, here everyone scrambled on shore . . . a sailor carried me out on his back almost up to his neck in the sea; our trunks and baggage though very wet we saved and got ashore, and by good fortune got into a fisher's hut where were assembled some of the Spanish troops who had that night been shipwrecked on the coast, they presented us with some refreshments and wine which were very comfortable . . . and our clergyman Mr Smith who felt uncommon joy in recovering his man Tom, he gave us all his benediction in the warmest manner. One of the sailors as day approached brought us a couple of good chaises, we took leave of the Spaniards with great cordiality, and hoped to meet them again at Pisa, and having paid amply for our felucca and rewarded well the sailors we got into our chaises . . . it is inconceivable the joy of the refreshing sleeps we had for many hours after our arrival. In the evening we went to the Opera, where we saw the Duke de Montemar who was an old venerable Spanish soldier with black whiskers, sitting dangling in his box among six pretty women.

*Sept. 30.*—Sunday, set out in Chaises for Leghorn and came there before dinner through a fine wood; here for want of my peculiar attention, while Mr Ramsay and I frequently chose to leave the Chaise to walk on some miles, I then had my boots stole.

*Oct. 1.*—We found the city of Leghorn a very thriving place for trade, many English reside here. Five thousand Spanish troops were there at that time, who had come after the conquest of Naples—they were in the utmost good order, well clothed in blue and well paid. We frequently dined and supped with the Spanish officers, and could observe they had



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no great opinion of Don Carlos, the Spanish King of Naples they had been fighting for, for they told us a story of the King one morning when he was feeding his cocks and hens, a diversion he was very fond of; the Duke de Montemar observing him always lowering and holding down his head at this amusement, the day before the battle of Bittonto, he says to him, "*Haussez la tete mon Prince je vous ferai Roi tantot.*" And indeed this battle secured the crown of Naples to him, and the English had a hand in this victory by transporting most of the troops.

Mr Ramsay had wrote from Leghorn a long letter to his Father the Poet at Edinburgh. . . . The letter I wrote to my dear young wife—was wrote in the mildest manner I could conceive it, and she and old Allan Ramsay compared notes to the joy of all our Friends.

*Oct. 5.*—Arrived at the city of Florence and put up at the Inn St Ludivici. We stayed till the 21st, and passed the time most agreeably, etc., etc.

*Oct. 21.*—Set out for Rome by the Procacio, which is a collection of Chaises carrying travellers, where he who directs provides you in everything on the road for bed, board, and chaises, of which there are sometimes 12 in the company.

All the country has a various appearance, some delightful spots at Radicofoni. The wine was more delicious here than at Florence. We observed as we came along a Cardinal sitting upon the side of the road superintending a large party of men employed in the repairs of the highways. . . .

So soon as we came into the Pope's dominions the wine was not bad but the air smelled Sulpher. The Shepherds are numerous here, each having large flocks. We saw also great flocks of young horses feeding with them in the Campania, the Shepherds take care during the night to light up fires, around which they assemble, and which, they allege, banishes the Malaria which prevails at this season of the year, and under whose influence it is reckoned very dangerous to fall asleep even in the houses. It is a magnificent show in the middle of the night to cast one's eye over the Campania, where the innumerable fires lighted by the Shepherds give the idea of vast population.

*Oct. 26.*—Being Friday, we came to Rome. The first sight of the City of Rome is very striking at the entry we made by the Porto del Poppolo. We put up at the Public Inn called the Tre Re.

## Chapter VII.

Sight-seeing—The Pope's Lottery—Prince Charlie and the Duke of York  
—The Prince shoots Blackbirds — Celebrated Painters — A present  
from the Duke of York—The Chevalier St George—Becoming a Free-  
mason—Birthday Ball to Prince Charlie—The Carnival—Execution  
of Count Trivelli—Departure from Rome—Notes by the Way—The  
King of Sardinia and his Bride—Toboganing down Mont Cenis—  
Lyons to London—Dinner with Dr Mead and Mr Pope.

November to April [1736-1737]



## Chapter VII.

"Nov. 15.—For near three weeks Mr Ramsay and I did little else than scamper about every day all over the streets of the City of Rome, staring and admiring the vast variety which occurred.

Soon after our landing we took lodgings in the Piazza d'Espagna and had genteel apartments, and hired a French servant whose name was Anthony, his wife was our Landress and took very good care of our Linens.

The air of Rome at first did not agree with me at night unless I had fire in my room, but afterwards became very easy. We had visits from Mr Hay, Dr Wright, and Dr Irvine, the Chevaliers alias the Pretenders two Physicians. On the 14th we were carried to see the Jesuits Church, where we happened to find the Chevalier and my Lord Nithsdale very piously employed at their devotions in the time of Vespers.

The Marcus Aurelius on horseback in the Capitol exceeded my expectations. It was said of a French General Officer that he never passed that horse without saying, '*Avancé ne sais tu pas que tu vis.*'

Nov. 15, 1736, new style.—We observed in the morning all the city of Rome were busied about their Lottery, which is done and all over in five minutes, and is drawn by a young Boy dressed in white about 10 years old; this is done early in the morning and on the first day of every month, excepting when it happens on a Sunday.

There are in the Constitution of this Lottery 100 numbers corresponding to the names of a 100 Saints, for the men there are 100 female Saints, and for the women 100 male Saints, they are at liberty to choose any five numbers which are entered upon record with the names of the Persons they correspond to, and according as 1, 2, or 3, of their numbers and the Saints that come up, and the sums they pay in at first, so is their proportional gain to be allowed them from the Pope's Treasury, where his holiness obtains a double benefit. 1st. That the surplus money after paying those that are the lucky persons, the return is made into his coffers which amounts (one year with another) to a considerable sum, seldom less than £10,000 sterling yearly free of all charges. 2nd. It employs the minds of

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the whole City of Rome for several days and sometimes the agreeable surprise of a low man rising up to keep his Coach greatly amuses the people which with this and the public shows, and music in the Theatres and Churches, they are thus continually amused from thinking of seditious practices against the State.

*Nov. 18.*—Dr Wright dined with me and gave me many diverting histories of the young Chevalier, viz., his jumping about among the Pope and Cardinals as it were in play, and of his refusing to kiss his holiness's toe, of his willfulness and restlessness and hardness, his quickness of capacity for all which he likewise celebrated his brother the Duke of York.

After dinner we went to the Villa Ludovici and saw there that young Prince and his brother the Duke, we had an introduction and salute by Lord Dunbar's means to whom I was introduced by Dr Wright. My Lord happened to be my uncle Mr Cuninghams Pupil, who was Professor of the Roman Law at Edinr. alongst with Mr Fletcher of Saltoun, afterwards Lord Milton our Justice Clerk, who at that time had the direction of all the affairs of Scotland under the Earl of Isla, who was brother to the Duke of Argyle, and came afterwards to be the Duke himself. My Lord Dunbar asked me many questions about his old friends and fellow students, he seemed to be a very genteel man, and became well his blue Riband and Star, he is brother to the present Lord Mansfield, and was very early in the House of Commons before the rebellion in 1715 and was considered a very fine speaker for his age.

The Prince that afternoon went a-shooting black birds in the garden, and was very dextrous at it. The little young Duke his brother was very grave and behaved like a little Philosopher, I could not help thinking he had some resemblance to his great g<sup>rd</sup> father Charles the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Walked for two hours in the garden with Lord Dunbar and afterwards went to the Coffeehouse to which Lord Winton\* resorted and several

\* In 1716 the Earl of Wintown, one of the prisoners in the Tower of London for his share in the rising of 1715, was condemned to death, his sentence being "to be hanged, cut down while alive and disembowelled before his face, the bowels to be burnt and the body quartered." After the trial, however, a morning paper made the following statement: "As for the Earl of Wintown, his Counsel having insinuated that he is not perfect in his Intellectuals 'tis said he will be confined for Life." He was so, but succeeded in making good his escape in August of the same year, by sawing the bars of his prison window. He passed into the street unmolested; evidently not such a fool as he looked.

He spent the remainder of his life abroad, chiefly at Rome with the Chevalier, and died there in 1744. Another year and he would have seen the final futile attempt of the Stewarts to regain



others of their stamp and there fell a-singing old Scots songs and were very merry.

Mr Ramsay made me acquainted with Mr Camillo Padermi, being a favourite scholar, and Eleve of Signor Francisco Imperiale, who was the most celebrated history Painter in Italy at that time, and under whose direction Mr Ramsay prosecuted with the greatest success his business of Painting.

*Nov. 20.*—Invited to dine with Captain Hay, formerly a sea officer in the Russian service, Mr Hay, a brother of Drumelliors, and Mr Campbell, who were all in the Chevalier's service and about his person, we had afterwards a little concerto and supper at my chamber.

*Nov. 24.*—Went in the morning to hear the music at Madonna della Vittoria where the best voices in Rome sang, as Domini, Couchi, Jusippini, &c. Went in the afternoon to the Borghese Gardens, where we met with the Duke of York entertaining himself with some of his comrades at jumping, where he desired us to partake of his diversion, which we did.

*Nov. 25.*—Went to the Church of S<sup>ta</sup> Caterina, where I heard the music of the Pope's Chapel, there were 22 Cardinals present, particularly Barberini, Albano, Camerlingo, two Altieris, Spiniola, Gentili, Colonna, Olivieri, and the Pope's nephew Cardinal Corsini, who was very like old John Hay of Cambo, also the Pope's Secretary, a handsome tall old man, they were all gray haired and venerable, but too often look merry.

*Nov. 29.*—Went with Dr Wright to the Vatican Library. I saw there the Ancient Manuscript of Virgil, with the old figures, every book of the Enied which wants in the beginning the *Ille Ego qui quondam*, &c. Also the famous Terrence in manuscript above 1000 years old, with the figures of the masks; with an old mass book of Henry the 8th and his letters, and a great many minatures.

*Nov. 30.*—St Andrew's Day, when a St Andrew's Cross was sent me by the Duke of York—invited to sup at Mr Hay's, laughed and drank a good while, where we had the Earl of Winton and a great deal of good company.

*Dec. 1.*—Walked in the Villa Ludovici and saw the young Princes there, and the Chevalier their Father at the Capuchins, and was surprised to see him so fond of his dirty greasy Priests.

*Dec. 8.*—While we were walking from the Temple of Bacchus our old the throne they had proved themselves incapable of worthily sustaining, rightful though their claim to it undoubtedly was.

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friend the Parson, Mr Smith, was with us, having met the Chevalier in his coach with Lord Nithsdale<sup>1</sup> and Mr John Stewart, Lord Bute's brother, we saluted them as we passed, and had a polite bow in return from them all. The English parson on this occasion made some moral reflections upon the unhappy fate of the old Chevalier, who had lost three kingdoms for his religion, and whose aspect had a very melancholy cast.

We had at Rome at this time Lord Barrington by himself, Mr Watson, Lord Rockingham's brother, Mr Ponsaby, afterwards Lord Ponsaby of Ireland,<sup>2</sup> and Sir Robert Hilliard, who had all their Governors along with them.

*Dec. 13.*—Heard solemn mass at St John de Lateran with grand music, the French Ambassador, the Duke de St Aignan, who was a very pious man, and it was said would soon be made a Cardinal, he and a great Retinue with him assisted there. In the afternoon went with Camillo to the Borghese Gardens, where we met the old Chevalier's family, the Prince we observed was an admirable shooter.

*Dec. 18.*—Being a rainy day I wrote letters to my wife, etc., etc.

*Dec. 24.*—After dinner we had a visit from Lord Winton at my house, where plenty of Scots tunes and Scots healths went round, it being the Eve of Christmas, attended at the Pope's Chapel and heard the solemnity of the music there, afterwards was present in the great hall where above 20 Cardinals were at supper served by Bishops and dignified Clergymen in their Robes; the Pope, who was then blind, could not be with them, which I suppose is usual, but he supped privately in the next room to where they were.

*Dec. 27.*—Dined with Mr Watson, Lord Rockingham's brother, and his Governor Mr Turnbull, who carried us afterwards to the Pamphilio Palace without the Gates of Rome, at night introduced to the Free Masons by Lord Winton, and afterwards saw the Jocco at Camillo's.

*Dec. 31.*—This being that of Prince Charles' birthday, Cardinal Corsini, the Protector of Britain, gave a magnificent Ball at the Palace, Duke Strozzi and a Chevalier of Malta of the family directed the Ball; a young lady of the Borghese, and another of the Bernini who accompanied her, both very handsome and very richly dressed in Jewels, the last being the

<sup>1</sup> Lord Nithsdale, also implicated in the Rebellion of 1715, was sentenced to be beheaded in 1716, but, by the clever contrivance of Lady Nithsdale, made good his escape from the Tower by donning female attire. Like Lord Wintown, he got safely abroad and joined the Chevalier at Rome.

<sup>2</sup> Probably William, second Earl of Ponsonby, born in 1704, who succeeded to the title in 1758.

introductrice of the first, who took her leave of all the Ladies in the most solemn manner, being in a few days to be made a Nun—which greatly affected the whole company, especially the many English noblemen and gentlemen who were present; Signora Sudorini, Gemini, Collagola were all handsome, but Bonnaventura particularly so, she danced with the young Prince Charles; we observed all the Ladies had Jewels of immense value, but especially the mother of the young Borghese who was to fall the sacrifice so soon after being made a Nun, they danced minuets and country dances alternately, the Constable Colonna, the Duke Gravin, a Prince Justiniari and Rospinosi, and uncle of the Borgese were all dressed in cloathes of richest Brocades. The two sons of the Chevalier both danced very well, the eldest looked best, but none of them in dancing had so much spirit as Prince Charles and the Duke of York, which last danced very genteely. Most of all the English then at Rome were present, also many German, Dutch, and Swiss gentlemen. Cardinals Corsini, Albano, Bigi, were present in black velvet coats, scarlet stockings and red heels; the hall was very magnificent adorned with Lustre's and Statues, and the best paintings in Rome in the roof by Pietro di Cortona. The young Chevalier Prince Charles was received in the stair-case by the Prince Corsini and his Mother and conducted into the ball-room, when the Ball began with the young Patricii, who advanced mighty well, as does her Mother, who is under forty, still a pretty good dancer and much admired; the company did not part till about two in the morning; the old Chevalier St George, Prince Charles' father was there, he came at 8 o'clock and stayed till 12. He was dressed in an olive-coloured velvet embroidered with gold, and was a tall, thin, raw-boned man with a sallow complexion and a pretty high nose, with a strong likeness of all the Stuart Family, though upon other occasions we observed him have a melancholy cast; he that evening appeared very gay and well pleased, and seemed to be much in conversation with the French Ambassador.

*Jan. 5, 1737.*—The Invitations during the Christmas holidays to dine with a variety of Friends were innumerable it was a very difficult matter to keep one free from intoxication, it gave however many opportunities of making remarks upon the contending and prevailing parties.

*Jan. 9.*—There were then festivals and bonfires upon the election of a new grand master of Malta, Mr Campbell and I walked through the City of Rome to observe the rejoicings of that night then supped with Mr Barclay and had the story of King Charles the II. who said "he was a fool

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who was always drunk, and a knave who was always sober," also the story of the reply of a Peasant to the Duke of Newcastle who threatened to shoot the poor man and send him to Hell. "Take care, my Lord, if you do so, for depend upon it I shall tell your uncle how you are spending his Estate."

*Jan. 14.*—Made the tour round the walls of Rome with Mr Barclay, Mr Hay of Drumellier and Mr Ramsay, we made it out in 4 hours, it is said to be 16 Roman miles, which I take to be 12 Scotch miles, we had concerted to meet all our friends to dine with them at the Meadows near the Reppetta.

*Feb. 5.*—There fell that day snow in good quantities in the streets of Rome.

*Feb. 23.*—The first day of the Carnival, went to see the execution of Justice (so called at Rome) upon the Abbé Count Trivilli who wrote a satyr against the Pope and Camera, not near so bitter as are daily wrote in our Public Papers against the King and the ministry. He had his head cut off by a machine exactly like our maiden in Scotland, which has a broad Ax loaded with a lead on the back, and is pulled by a rope and pully up a large timber slide six or eight feet high, there is a block below on which the criminal's head is fixed by his neck, then the executioner when the maiden is pulled up and the rope fastened below, and the criminal placed, he with a small ax cuts the rope, and in an instant his head is separated from the Body. This machine was invented in Scotland as it is said by the Regent the Earl of Morton in Queen Mary's time; and what was remarkable after the Regent was condemned for treason he was the first that was beheaded by it. Mr Ramsay and I were so placed in a window so near, that we saw the whole of this tragedy, the Priest took the gentleman often backwards and forwards into a bye room to make him discover his accomplices, and to renounce what he had wrote, neither of which he would do. He was not allowed to speak to the People who were very numerously assembled and an infinite number of ladies and gentlemen in windows. We were told by some who were very near him that he thought he got very hard Justice; he died with the greatest resolution and firmness and appeared to us from the windows to be a man of a tall fine person and looked very like a gentleman, everybody seemed to be very sorry for his fate. But as we say in Scotland, it may be said here of the Pope and the Priests "Beware to attack the De'il and the Laird's bairns."

Mr Camillo dined with us that day and afterwards we went to see the



Procession of Masks, Ladies, Princes, Counts, &c., &c., thro' the long street of the Corso; Prince Angellotti made the best appearance; we afterwards saw the races by the horses upon whom nobody rides; the horses were eight Barbes with spurs glittering on their backs, which when they are let loose to run a mile of Stretch amongst the long straight street of the Corso from the Porto del Poppolo to the Capitol, lined with coaches on every side, the horses run between, galled on their backs with these spurs; their speed and their emulation is incredible; the horse who reaches first to the bottom of the Capitol wins the race, the Prize is a large web of Velvet, silver or gold Brocade which is delivered to the owner of the Horse, one of the Princes or chief Citizens of Rome commonly. This was won by Prince Collonna which we saw.

*Feb. 28.*—Went to the Opera with Mr Barclay's governor who was of his name, a worthy old man I knew formerly in Scotland. Here we saw the Duke of Berwick with the Chevalier and his two sons the young Princes.

*March 4.*—That evening saw the Corso, where the Chevalier was in the Duke de Tiano's coach. Cardinal Corsini the Patron of Britain gave a great festival this evening.

*March 5.*—The last Corso of the Masquerades, and the Carnival, which is now at an end having lasted ten days, went lastly to the Opera which ended with an Allegria and universal Huzza.

*March 16.*—Mr Ramsay having invited us all on Sunday the 16th to dine at his Room most of the gentlemen I had lived with in habitudes of friendship while at Rome were present and particularly the old Earl of Winton. As I was to set out the next day the 17th being Monday, we supped with Mr Ramsay and were very merry till the hour of parting came, when friendly sensations arose which affected them all as well as me a good deal.

It is to be remarked that I had just been five months at Rome all but ten days, and my whole expence since I came to that city, including Music masters, and all the things I bought (pictures, prints, seals, &c.) cost me about £30, does not in the whole exceed £100. I spent my time very agreeably and at the same time had more instruction than in any five months of my life past.

*March 17.*—Having engaged with a Voiturin to carry myself and Josua Hay my servant and all my Baggage for 40 Crowns to Milan, furnishing us one Repast per day and Lodgings with the liberty of staying three days



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in any place I liked best . . . We set out from Rome by the way of the Appenine Hills.

The gloominess of the weather made the scenes somewhat melancholy especially after parting with so many merry friends. My servant Josua as well as myself was inclined to taciturnity which was not a little increased by the badness of the wind, the sorry condition of the Inns and the melancholy look of the women counting their Beads everywhere as we passed along, served much to encrease the scene. I received, however, always consolation and entertainment from the books I carried along with me, and the using myself to draw the Caricatures of the people I saw with my black lead pencil upon the white walled houses where we put up.

*March 19.*—We arrived at night at Narni; where we were well lodged, it is a Romantic situation among hills and deep glens with falls of water and one very considerable Cascade well known, we got excellent figs here for a halfpenny a pound.

*March 23.*—The lodgings and eating at Tolentina in every respect good, the house was built for a Cardinal for his Palace, but he soon after died; and now it is made a Hosteria or Public Inn for travellers; the People of this Country of the female sex all dressed in red, yellow, green, or blue with a white vail which comes down their back all fringed and is generally very coarse as may be seen by the drawings in my original journal, where you'll find it observed that the women here may be said to wear their aprons on their backsides instead of their bellies. From Macerata to Recanate the next town, the road was full of Pilgrims, beggars, or Priests, and old women saying their prayers and mumbling over their beads.

*March 24 and 25.*—Arrived at Loretto, being the Feast of the Annunciation, the Functione at the Santa Casa was very grand, the Bishops performed high Mass in the Holy house itself, where they pretend our Saviour was born of the Virgin Mary; it is very homely in the inside of the walls but filled at the top with silver lamps of great value, they pretend it came from Bethelhem over the seas to this place wafted by angels and fixed to remain here for ever. The image of the Virgin with the young Jesus is about the bigness of a large girl of 10 or 12 years old. The Diamonds, emeralds and Rubies that adorn this image before which innumerable silver lamps filled with oil are constantly burning shew by their Lustre that they are inexpressibly rich.

The Church of the Sancta Casa and Monastery of the Monks who have

the charge of it, are defended by a fortification all round them to preserve them in all events; the Pope likewise pays for the Troops or guards necessary and they have also a suitable armoury.

*March 27.*—The landlord at Rimini told me that the people of St Marino were still as jealous of their liberties as ever, and by way of sneer said, there were no nobility there; for the Doso who was the principal man of the state was one that held his own plough.

About two miles from the Ancient Bridge of Rimini we passed another bridge over the Rubicon where I perceived the monument and inscription which relates to the history of Julius Cæsar. I asked the people of the country what it was, they said it was the monument which Cæsar left when he passed the river with his army, and immediately after the River flowed with Blood. A countryman said there was a great treasure below that monument but that the Devil hindered everybody to come at it.

*March 28.*—Forli. This morning I walked through the town being market day, and was much diverted to see how the dress of the country people differs over Italy, that among the women is curious, at Loretto they were all blue, red, yellow, and green, here they were all black, white, or plain colour, the better sort walked the streets with plaids of black silk, like the shape of the Scots plaids, and they turn them over their arms so; though not so genteely as our young Ladies do.

The cows and young heifers are made to draw all their draughts, they are all white and their swine are all red, the oxen are not larger than the Brechiners in Scotland.

As we came near Bologna, I made a little sketch of the dress of the young girls hastily, they wear little hats on the side of their heads much in the manner as Harlequin does.

*April 2.*—At Parma, they were just shutting the gates of the city yesternight when we came in; they shut at 24 hours, which is always in Italy about half-an-hour after sunset, for they divide the day light to form their hours, and midday shifts back in every 15 days a quarter of an hour in the summer half year, and goes forward a quarter of an hour in the winter half year. Left Parma at 11 o'clock yesterday and passed out at the gate where three years ago the great battle was fought in which so many men fell, the Germans had the ground on the left, the French that on the right, the long causeway, which has a ditch on both sides, and reaches five miles to the Bridge on the river, parted the two Armies; they plied on both sides of the road for the whole five miles with musket and

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canon shot, it began about the middle in the morning early and lasted till four hours after sunset, there fell that day twenty thousand men, counting the loss on both sides; the French continued masters of the field, but they gained no ground in the engagement; it was remarkable to see the trees and bushes on every side of the road for five miles all shattered with the musket shot in their branches and bark, likewise the impression of balls on the farm houses are numerous and very evident.

*April 9.*—The entrance to Turin is very magnificent, where we arrived this day. The preparations for the solemnity of the King's marriage were inexpressibly magnificent. She is sister to the Duke of Lorrain, soon after Emperor of Germany, and highly esteemed for her beauty as well as her noble qualifications. The King was married before while Duke of Saxony, but this being the first married Queen of Sardinia, a suitable proportion of magnificence is to be seen.

I was a good deal surprised to find the gentlemen who dined at the public ordinary canvassing the story of Captain Porteous, and the bold insurrection in the city of Edinburgh from a conspiracy among a few undaunted persons who took the Captain out of Jail and hanged him in the Public streets in opposition to the orders from Government, who proposed to pardon him for the crime of ordering his soldiers to fire among the multitude, who happened to throw some stones at him while he guarded the execution of a criminal condemned by the Law for Smugling, and where several persons were killed by the shots from the soldiers.

*April 13.*—The Marquis de Castello carried me out this afternoon, being Saturday, to see the arrival of the King and his young Queen at the Palace of Venesi, where she arrived that evening along with the King, who had passed over the Alps to meet her at the foot of them on the side of Savoy.

The looks of the Queen were very engaging, who, upon her arrival, was handed in from her coach by the King into the Palace, where all the Court, and I among the rest, were all ready to receive her, she seemed extremely affable to everybody. Her dress was a long green flowing Robe, adorned with rich flowers of gold Brocade, her train carried by little pages richly dressed, and her air in general was very noble and graceful, and she seemed to be possessed of more beauty than I had ever seen at any of the Courts of Europe in my travels; the Marquis Dormeo, the first Minister, made his address to her very soon after the Marquis de Suza had kissed her hand, being the first officer of the Court, then the young Prince of

Savoy was brought to her, and she received him very tenderly. It was a charming sight to observe this Domestic love commence so warmly at the first interview. I observed the old Ladies of the Bedchamber, at whose back I stood with the Marquis, cry for joy upon the arrival of the Queen—they had formerly served in that capacity to the King's Duchess of Savoy, the mother of the young family—and being restored to their places as servants to the more exalted rank of a Queen—the Marquis and I could not help expressing to these old Ladies our high approbation of their feelings and shewing them some few sympathetic tears which dropt from our eyes on this interesting occasion. The King seemed to have all the contentment of a country gentleman returned to his fields from the town (for this was his country Palace), where that evening everything shone in the highest lustre. Most of those who were about the King were Officers, no Priests did I see. The King, upon the Queen's retiring with the Ladies of her Court to dress in her apartments for supper, called aside from the circle the Marquis Dormeo, his first Minister and Secretary of State, to a sort of Bow window, where the Secretary seemed to present to the King several papers of the State, which the King seemed to read over with great care, and I saw him return them to his Secretary.

The gardens, orangeries, and stables at this Palace are noble and in great good order.

There are 200 horses one-fourth whereof are English are constantly kept here.

The preparations for the grand entry of the Queen into the City of Turin are immense. Every night the Palace is lighted it would cost for wax and oil near £300 sterling.

Turin is not an expensive place, for for a crown or six shillings a day you will live full as well as you will do for double that sum in London or Paris.

*April 16.*—We set out early in the morning from Novalese in order to pass the snow on Mount Cenis.

We first mounted for four miles on the mules, on the south side and had little or no snow, but when we came to reach the top which is about half way of the summit we came to a plain which was four miles in length and covered with deep snow but bore at top very well; we observed the great Mount Cenis on our right, soaring among the clouds and covered with snow. At length we left the mules and were conducted down the north side of the Hills among the snow by means of a machine or hurdle,



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sliding gradually down, a peasant sitting upon the fore part of it dextrously managing the machine by striking a pole into the snow, he conveyed us at length safely to the landing place, he told me he had passed the King a few days ago in that manner in his way to meet his Queen and said he had given him a luisd'or ; it appears a terrible affair at first when you enter into the hurdle and sees the Precipices before you that you are to pass, but there is no danger in it, as they manage so well. Our chaise was taken to pieces and put upon mules which from the south side went by several winding roads till after a considerable time they brought the whole parts of the Chaise and Horses unto the foot of the hill upon the north side where they were all put in order again after the expedition of sliding was over we were put upon mules again to convey us to the place where we were to dine which was Lausleburg. There are many wild animals upon the Alps particularly the Marmot which they say are good food at some seasons. The people told us which we could scarce believe that there were lions on the sides of those hills next to Geneva (!)

*April 17.*—From Bramont descended the whole way to where we lodged at night in Chambery. The roads hereabouts are all upon the sides of the Hills supported with wood or stone. General Wade has copied this method in making the military roads in the Highlands of Scotland. In my written notes I find there are two little drawings, the first is the invention of a shovel and blowing bellows, in one piece made here at Chambery the time of the last war by the soldiers with their old gun barrels, this answers very well, and has a strong power in blowing up the fire, the second is the figure and dress of an inhabitant on the snowy mounts the dress is warm and short waisted, admitting of their hands to be placed before their belly for warmth and is very ingenious.

*April 21.*—Being Easter Sunday came to Lyons this morning.

*April 22.*—Went to St Foa to deliver a commission I had from Rome to the Countess of Denbeigh.

The Earl and she lived very elegantly in the middle of a fine vineyard three miles from Lyons. While I was there the Countess was consulted by the Merchants of Lyons about some elegant new gold and silver stuffs they were to make, of which she had given them Paterns she had made with her own hand.

*April 23.*—Took the diligence for Paris for which I was to pay a hundred franks and six sous for baggage above 12 pounds weight, my servant goes by water coach.



Upon my return to London in the month of May I waited upon Dr Mead who was pleased to introduce me to Mr Pope the great Poet with whom I dined at the Doctor's and had a long conversation with him.

The ancient picture I brought the Doctor which he called the "Court of Augustus" was not forgot and which Mr Pope thought extremely curious. I left with the Doctor my eight Latin lines I made as I came along from Italy,

*"Considet Augustus, præcinctus tempora lauro,  
Expulso reddit qui Diadema suum :  
Cæsaris acta probat, munus tale illustre ferentis  
Virtutis vindex imperiique decus  
Percitus invidia stupet fixa manet  
Cæsaris invicti laudes cui dicere fas est,  
Carmina patrono et condere digna suo,"*

and which the Society of Antiquarians at Edinr. have got a copy of from Camillo Padermi's work I have in my library, with my Latin lines and a translation of the same."



## Chapter VIII.

An ingenious letter—Down the burn, Jessy, love—A garland—Allan Ramsay's letters—Parson Smith—Study under Solimene the Painter—Rural repose—Titorello's Water Colours—Tea and talk.

[1737—1740.]



## Chapter VIII.

Although, from the description given of the life led in Rome, it would not occur to the reader that Mr Alexander Cunyngham was eating his heart out for the separation from "his dear young wife," or for the parental displeasure at his secret marriage; yet he seems to have suffered certain qualms of conscience. For disobedience, even at his age, was in those days a very serious offence against a parent, as will be seen from the following ingenious letter written to his father before leaving Rome:

March 18 1737

"HONOURED SIR,—I wrote a long letter to my mother from Paris, in which I thought I explain'd myself as a dutifull son and good Christian, but a great part of a year has passed without my hearing the least word from either of you. As I could attribute this to nothing else but the displeasure which my mother or you must have had with me for being so obstinate as to marry contrary to your opinion and sincere advice, so I thought it highly essential that some time should pass in which you might have occasion to observe the prudent conduct and economy of my poor wife in my absence, for I knew that frugality, virtue, and good sense were so eminent qualities that they must necessarily recommend her to your favour at length.

At the same time I heartily beg pardon of Almighty God and of both my parents for all the fits of mad obstinacy I was in some days before I left you, it certainly binds me down to a great deal of good behaviour in times to come to atone for so much rudeness and presumption. Yet after all that has happened I trust in God Almighty that it will double your joy when you see your son again, to see him entirely tam'd of all his rudeness, indignation, and oy<sup>r</sup> bad habits, and contrary to your fears a Daughter-in-law careful, obedient, and frugal. I have thought over in my mind many hundred times since I left you this subject, and have often admired the love and affection you both show'd me with tears in my eyes—and am



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perfectly convinced that everything you said and did flow'd from your paternal concern for me. Depend upon it I have now no greater joy before me in this life than living peaceably and soberly the few years of health and strength that remain after this present time of my age, and nothing gives me any real satisfaction but what points to my being a lasting comfort to my mother and you as time draws on, which will at length bring us all to a close, but I hope being so improved will happily prepare us for a better state than this valley of Tears, where we shall never repent our Harmony and Concord.

I have, Sir, had many Tryals of Fortune since I left you, but I admire Providence in every one of them, for my mind had been long of coming to a right frame had I not met with them. I need not trouble to a long account of them, but two in particular went a little near my person. The first was a robbery at Genoa by one of the banditts,<sup>1</sup> who would have cut my throat or shot me if he had not got all the money I had, without waking me in the night time.<sup>2</sup> He is lately found and put in prison, but not a sous can be recovered.

My next was in coming from Genoa to Leghorn in a felucca.

(Here follows an account of the shipwreck, with mention of Parson Smith.)

This clergyman and I came on to Rome together, and have been over all observing the grandeur and variety of Human glory, the particulars of which would fill volumes, among other things he made very curious and learn'd observations on the purity of the first centuries of the Church and the places the Apostles were martyr'd and the Catacombs which we saw where the Saints were buried. He made me observe the plainness and decency of the Church of England and this—and gave good reasons why a reform must inevitably happen soon here for the good of Christendom."

Then follows a reference to a business matter : money in the Bank which he cannot get, owing to forms to be gone through.

And if it should please God I meet with any misfortune upon the road or Dye before I see home you know that all I have is yours, but I hope I shall not pay the Debt to Nature till I pay my Debts to you and my Mother who I am afraid has forgot me. Depend upon it I have not forgot her and have brought some things home with me that she will not be dis-

<sup>1</sup> The servant in 'green livery a very genteel fellow.'      <sup>2</sup> 'Dear Dempster, when you go to bed.'

pleased with. All I can say of myself since you brought me up to manhood I have always endeavoured to do something for my parents though it has never yet been in my power to do enough. I am very sure of this that neither rioting, drunkenness, cards or dice have ever made me give you any uneasiness, &c.

Farewell dear Sir, and may God Almighty preserve and bless my Mother and you and tho' you should never allow me the pleasure of seeing your Face any more

I shall still be y<sup>r</sup> ever affect<sup>e</sup> & dutifull Son,

ALEX. CUNINGHAME.

I own my Heart is big just now but I hope in God it won't break till I hear some news from you at Paris or at London."

It seems almost sacrilege to read what was intended for one person only, and that a wife, but as we become more intimately acquainted with these excellent people, into whose lives we are enabled by means of their letters to look so closely, their joys become our joys and their sorrows our sorrows, so that as they pass along our little stage and one by one drop out, it seems as if we also had lost a friend and a dearly loved acquaintance.

The following are the first letters which have been preserved from Alexander to his wife.

To Mrs Cuninghame, Clermiston, near Edinburgh,

Milan, April 6, N.S., 1737.

MY DEAREST JESSY, Love, Wife and everything else that is dear to me.

You may expect that by the time you read this I am more than half way home being just now on my journey and at least four hundred miles nearer you than when I was at Rome. I come over the Alps to the Tune of the last time I came o'er the Moor I left my Love behind Me. I leave you to sing the rest of it. No more over the Hill and far away, but down the burn Jessy love and I will follow thee.

I vow to God I have not been merry since I left you till I set my face homewards in hopes of seeing you.<sup>1</sup> "I have often wished for the wings

<sup>1</sup> He seems to have forgotten his "singing Scots Songs and being very merry!"

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of a Dove to flye like lightning and perch upon your throne among the Braes of Clermy where I might accidentally meet you with your Book in your hand and pick round about the ground where you walk'd.

Dear Life I wrote a Letter to my Father and drew a Bill upon him when I left Rome. God knows what the effect will be or if he will pay my bill. I was straightend on all sides to get money to come home else I would not have troubled him. I cannot yet get a farthing of Mr Livingston's money <sup>1</sup> till the Courts meet at London but when I come there God willing I will make it my first business to pay all my Debt tho' you and I should have but a shilling a day to live upon it is not the first time we have done so. I myself have spent but small matters in comparison of what I should have done had I waited on the Law plea at London but the Law I am afraid will cost me a good deal when I see the accounts, &c., &c., but whatever be the consequence I resolve to have no debt and then we know what we have independant of all mankind and can accomodate our manner of living accordingly when I return. Keep all your little Rooms at Clermy for us you know we have no other and I don't like any other company but yours and Annie<sup>2</sup> and our little Library. . . . If he (Sandy Blythe) does not thrive after all I have done for him I will turn farmer again for a second time and hold my own plough as many an honest man does both here and in England and you shall make the Cheese and the Butter as many a heartsome housewife does always clean and neat and while she spins sings her song and laughs at all the foolish cares of y<sup>e</sup> World. This my Lamb is what Kings and Queens covet but can never acquire. . . .

In the meantime do all you can that lys in your way to show all due respect and complaisance to our Mother and Father Your prudent and wise behaviour is all I now have to promote a reconciliation . . .

My dearest Life keep hearty and well for I shall never rest till I be at Home and be yours for ever

SANDY CUNINGHAME.

London June 29 1737

O! what would I give my Dearest Jessy, my Sweetest Life, to be at Clermy along with this Letter to thank you from the Bottom of my Soul for y<sup>r</sup> wise and prudent conduct in my Absence. By a letter which I lately received I find the old people whose hearts were hard as the rocks are at length melted into Friendship and real kindness for us both, but as you know they have both their own peculiar way of doing things so my

<sup>1</sup> Payment of a sum of money over which there was litigation.

<sup>2</sup> Daughter of Allan Ramsay Senr

dearest, dont think it surprising that they dont all of a sudden declare themselves publickly content with us. You shall see that come to pass too whenever I return and depend upon it I will now hasten down upon that very account, that you and I may concoct measures so as to live in Harmony with them as much as possible. As a Testimony of what I write I have by my Father and Mother's orders got £20 sterling sent me to pay of any little debts I have and bring me down as soon as it is possible for my Law plea to allow.

. . . Never fear my Lamb you see we are now worth at any rate forty pounds st<sup>r</sup> a year clear and when Livingston's money comes we will have forty pounds a year more w<sup>h</sup> is fourscore so that if these good parents of ours would make it up a hundred pounds neat and free we might live at Edinburgh in great decency and I should delight to follow my profession which would enable me to provide in all events in case you and I should spread our Olive Branches round our Table which I forsee would be no small Joy to the old people. . . .

I thank God every day of my Life for every step I have taken since I first lov'd you since that all my Schemes Labours and toils will I hope soon end in your real Joy and everlasting Delight.

Bring me O Bring me to these blisful Bowers  
Which Jessy decks with ever blooming Flowers  
Recall her pensive Mind from dangers past  
Her Husband, Friend and Lover comes at Last.

The next letter is headed by an ETCHING OF A CUPID CARRYING A GARLAND OF FLOWERS, and proceeds thus :—

A Garland Jessy a Garland ! dont you see one of my Boys has taken wing and brought you a new years gift. . . .

Why dont you write me what advances you make in y<sup>r</sup> spinnet since you know I love it I am sure you will not neglect it.

I saw yesterday a very melancholy scene pass by my windows. A young woman drest in white satten in a mourning coach going to Tyburn a little after followed a gentleman in Black in another mourning coach going the same road. I asked what was their crimes. The young woman declared before she was thrown of that her misfortunes were owing to her parents who forct her to marry a gentleman she could not love which oblig'd her to fly from his company and take to an abandoned Life and



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led her to be entic'd by the gentleman that was to be hanged with her to rob another gentleman of ninety guineas which as they both were concern'd in it they both suffered punishment together. They say she would have made a very good wife and behav'd very well if her parents would have allow'd her to marry the man her affections were set on tho he may not have been so rich as him she married. They were both thrown at one time and they held their hands join'd together till Death seal'd their eyes they held at the same time two pigeons which flew of when their hands separate. Their crimes were great to be sure but it was very moving to consider all the circumstances. . . .

Yours my Dearest as kind and loving and as well as you  
could wish me ALEX. CUNINGHAME.

There is now a change in the correspondence, which comes from Allan Ramsay, author of "The Gentle Shepherd," and from his son, the artist. The first letter is addressed to the Doctor, to be left at

The Rain-bow Coffee House,  
London.

It is from the pen of Allan Ramsay, senior, and dated

"Edin<sup>r</sup> June 28 1737

DEAR DOCTOR

Why have you been so unkind as never to honour me with a line since you came to Brittain. I would have paid my respects sooner but was in hopes to have got all your Italian cracks sooner by word of mouth. Deil tak a' Qurks of Law, say I that keeps you sae lang frae Cross-de-orphine Hill<sup>1</sup> and friends that lang to see ye, I have been in pain for my poor Allan since ye left him, whae has he now to converse with but un ho' saes<sup>2</sup> the seed of antichrist; after he has laid by his pencill I see him dandering about lonely, with a great length of under lip, among the antique ruins, striving to divert his melancholy while he thinks on his separation from his good ffriend. I begin already to weary sair and wish for a Quick cerculation the ensuing year O Doctor ye dinna ken what it is to be a father of ane only that has merit—but ther is a good time coming.

We of Ed<sup>r</sup> have been (as many of us think) sore handled about the

<sup>1</sup> Corstorphine Hill, near Edinburgh.

<sup>2</sup> One who sows.



Raskall Porteous which makes an unnerasall grumble, but I am particularly attacked by a certain act against our publick Theatres having a set of players under my management I should be sorry to see them driven to Beggary now, when I had last year got a brow new House for them

Soon as this comes to hand get the act if printed or an exact copy of it in manuscript and send it to me with a short hint of the generall opinion about it if a licence from the L<sup>d</sup> Chamberlane can be had and the method of procuring it, or if the act puts it out of his power to grant one; there is likewise a new Play called the Projectors please if it be not too troublesome, to get two covers from some parliament man, to case it in and send it to me— Happy the man that can live independant on his ain tho small income and frae the leeside of that little Bield wrapt in his virtue can look smiling on the contentions of the great and litle vulgar meditating all the arts of throatcutting.

For as much as our honest Provost Wilson was slighted yet at this present writing 5 o'clock tuesday afternoon he dines at John Steel's with great numbers of his friends gone to meet and welcome him and the musick Bells are Playing exterordinary for Joy of his return.

God preserve you in health and chearfullness and send you soon hame my wife has her humble respects to you. Command Sir y<sup>r</sup> humble Ser<sup>vt</sup>

ALLAN RAMSAY

The next correspondent is Parson Smith, who writes to his former companion from

"Siena August  $\frac{8}{19}$  1737"

He says :—

I doubt not in your passage through Stamford you was better informed than I am in what scurvy manner I have been treated, the worst of such usage is that it serves for an example to others when once a man is on the ground every Ass will be kicking. The money that I told you I expected to receive when you left Rome was not paid till this very day morning. That had not Belloni and another person supplied me I know not in what manner I could possibly have existed."

Of this matter we shall read more anon.

"Here is not an Englishman in the place except myself and Tom, he poor fellow I think resembles the Pendulum of a Clock, You know it is not quite the same with me I continued my master all the time I was in

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Rome and I have now taken into the house a young Abbé who in truth reads till he stupifies me." Etc etc. Signed

"Y<sup>r</sup> obedient humble servant

BENJ. SMITH.

"You will direct to me Gentilhomme Anglais chez—— Banquer à Paris."

Apropos of this last letter, Allan Ramsay junior writes to his friend, giving him an account of the work on which he is engaged, and also telling unpleasant tales of Parson Smith, the godly clergyman, upon whose improving remarks Alexander laid so much stress in his penitential epistle to his father.

"Naples Aug<sup>st</sup> 2 1737

DEAR DOCTOR.—Next to the happiness of actually being with our friends in London it gives me the greatest pleasure to hear that it has fallen to y<sup>r</sup> share since it is never lost what a friend gets, and that you are such to me it is not time now to doubt. I have had a thousand instances of it which I reflect upon with infinite pleasure, as I do on the many diverting hours I have enjoyed in your company not without flattering myself with the like whenever fortune shall order our meeting. I presume you have received before this time a letter I wrote you from Naples, so I need not tell you the manner of my coming hither. I live vastly agreeably having the best opportunity of studying under Solimene and when I have any spare time I am always welcome to several English houses here particularly Sir John Shadwell's which with the addition of the Consul's family make a very pretty society of themselves.

I have done 6 portraits finished upon blew paper for them, which have gained me great fame, and the approbation of Solimene, who has desired me to do one for him. I have over and above been writing sonnets and odes and epigrams with like success, so you may believe I am not lookt upon here as a useless member of Society.

I am sorry to have no virtu to tell you off, but you may expect a long dissertation when I return to Rome.

Solimene is employ'd to paint a hymeneal ceiling against the King's marriage which is lookt for sometime next winter tho' it is not yet known who is to be the bride. . . .

You must know after the most humane treatment on my side Parson

## The Land of Liberty and Roast Beef 135

Smith has behaved to me like a *birbo futulo* as he is. Four months ago when he was in great necessity and none of the English would assist him he came to me and desired me in the most piteous manner to lend him 20 crowns, promising to repay me in a month w<sup>h</sup> I granted believing him to be an honest unfortunate man. I never once mentioned it to him till the day I went to Naples and then he told me his bills were not come, but that in a day or two to take up money at Belloni to carry him to Sienna and then he would remit me mine. After I had determined to stay at Naples I wrote a very civil letter to him telling him I supposed he had got the money he talked of and desired him to give it to Camillo who had at that time had to lay out 12 crowns for me at Rome.

Instead of this he writes me a most impertinent letter, which I answered to the full with the help of Mr Bristow.

Next post Sir Thomas Stradling writes to Mr Bristow how Smith had gone off to Sienna *en tres mauvaise odeure*, after having borrowed 150£ of an English man there who had got it left him in a legacy and a 100 crowns fr<sup>e</sup> Belloni for which Parker stands accountable. I have sent Parson Smith's letter to Belloni who has promised to see me pay'd as soon as Smith's money comes. Mr Bristow brings along with him his own portrait and two others of my drawing"

The rest of the letter is torn away, save the last line—

"my dear friend with what affection I am y<sup>rs</sup>

ALLAN RAMSAY jun<sup>r</sup>

Again, writing from

Rome Ap<sup>r</sup> 5 1738

he says :—

"I should have answered your most agreeable letter sooner had I been able to bring D<sup>r</sup> Mead's commission to a point which has been protracted by the tenders having broke his leg in the country, so that I was obliged at last to ride 140 miles for an *eclaircissement*, but that I reckon *una cosa di niente* to oblige so worthy a gentleman. . . .

In ten days I hope to have the book delivered and to turn my nose towards the land of liberty and roast beef *te, dulcis amice, reviset, cum straw-berrys si concedes et gooseberry prima.*

There is one thing in y<sup>r</sup> letter w<sup>h</sup> I could wish alter'd, where you speak of a Rural repose. Had you not better exert y<sup>r</sup>self where you are and

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where people make a great figure with half your capacity? then send for your Rib as I shall for mine and make a Clermiston at Richmond. *A proposito*, was it well done to keep your marriage so long a secret from me, who have always shared so sensibly in y<sup>r</sup> happiness.

My Spouse tells me she has been to see her and that she makes many complaints against me and threatens much scolding at meeting. I have enclosed a little letter which I beg you may send in your first till such time as I have an opportunity to make my defence in person.

Mr Torriens who is to travel as far as Lyons with me desires to be remembered to you in the kindest manner.

We design to go to Venice where I shall see the works of Titian, Paul Veronese &c. thence to Bologna where the school of the Carrachis as you know is in the highest perfection, thence to Modena, Parma Milan and Turin and over the Alps as hard as we can drive. Pray write me a scrawl *chez M Alex<sup>r</sup>*. As to landscapes neither Camillo nor I have done any, but I have bespoke 2 in watercolours of Titorello who does them prodigiously well in that way and has promised to exert himself to please me, these I shall put into D<sup>r</sup> Mead's book when I get it and beg you may honor them with a place in your villa till such time as better shall be found.

I have sent by sea with my other things several pieces of antique terra cotta, such as lamps, masques &c. and one Tuscan vase w<sup>h</sup> is of a mighty pretty form such as they used in the Sacrifices and quite entire.

Walking Smith alias Ben &c. is I believe at Venice and has pay'd me my money. . . My humble service to Mr Mallet D<sup>r</sup> Forbes and D<sup>r</sup> Ross and all lovers of common sense and the Virtu to whom I have the honor to be known whether they be English or Scotch Jews or Gentiles

*Tros Tyriusque mihi nullo discrimine agetur*

*Scilicet uni æquus virtuti atque ejus amicis.*

My dear Doctor *addio* I long to embrace you and am ever most  
affec<sup>tl</sup>y yours

ALLAN RAMSAY jun<sup>r</sup>

From Allan Ramsay Sen<sup>r</sup>

DEAR DOCTOR

I received yours with much pleasure which brought me acc<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>r</sup> health and happiness May you and spouse never meet with a diminution but increase in all the good senses that the word will bear, next day after I had yours I paid a visit to your sister Dick who had by the same



## Wars and Weather prevent Matrimony 137

post a Letter from Mrs Cuninghame we were very blyth over our tea and comparing our notes. I understand she is resolved to see you against beginning of June next if some suitable cast of a Help-mate between and that time do not c'er bid you in the Matriamonial way, however you have a great many to one on your side at present for these rumours of wars and this hard frost and snow seems to keep back marriages in this place bitterly and as you well observe Judgements follow the ingratitude and stupid politick of our Leaders who causeth the people to err.

Well it is extremely cold and has been for a month past. I shall take care to send you the Magazine desired.

Your own native goodness and knowlege of my son's Lazyness to write must plead for what I cannot—that none can love and esteem you more than he does that I am sure of he is in a fair and thriving way and seems to have nothing against him as long as God grants him life and health.—I am obliged to my two Daughters for frequent accounts of his and their welfare for even to me he writes but seldom.

There is nothing has happened remarkable in this poor Town worth writing about—you see the coffee houses cram'd with a parcell of half witted politicians grumbling for want of news and half broken Tradesmen cursing the scarcity of cash, the Idle half witted Beaux confounding the . . . who laid them their winter fire—none are satisfied, the chieils that seem most easy are these same Demoe critans you notice who ken that ther is no such thing as perfect Satisfaction and e'en quietly make the best of an ill bargain and laugh at the Lave<sup>1</sup> that take the pet at their potage because they canna get AQUAVITÆ to them. I wad fain shoulder myself amang this class, and follow your example and let the wretched make themselves still more wretched by disregarding of what they can really possess by running themselves out of breath after what they may never reach.

I shall take possession of my Castle Bank retirement<sup>2</sup> against Whitsunday next, having sett of my house at Cross, where I design to live as philosophically as I can and engage in as few cares as possible that the evening of my days may set with health and joys.

I shall hope when you have made a proper compitancy you will again return to your native Braes and gives all your History by word of mouth. Yes I hope to live to hear it. All friends are well—only my wife has had a right feverish cold lately but is some better

<sup>1</sup> Rest.

<sup>2</sup> His house on the Castle rock above the Princes Street Gardens.



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Mess<sup>rs</sup> Cooper and Crossman, &c., are all well, my humble respects to  
your Lady with my wife's and Daughters praying for y<sup>r</sup> health and  
welfare I am etc etc

ALLAN RAMSAY

E<sup>dr</sup> Jany 23 1740

This letter is addressed—

Mr Alex Cuninghame

Doctor of Medicine at

Pembroke South Wales

where he was then residing.

Most of Allan's letters are written upon foolscap paper of a  
parchment make, and many have his initials "A. R." on the top  
of the outside sheet.

## Chapter IX.

The most Ancient Parson—The summit of Philosophy—Love's young dream—A Penitent Letter—Our Brethren the old Brittons—On Pembroke's plains—A family of O's—Prince Charlie at Holyrood—My lady's cheque—The White Cockade—Penalties of rebellion—Sir Archibald Primrose—Flight of Mr Strange—Verses by Allan Ramsay junior.

[1740—1755.]



## Chapter IX.

FROM London, "Aprile 10 1740," Allan Ramsay jun., writes:—

"DEAR DOCTOR,—If your receipts are as efficacious as your letters they are well worth the guineas that are given for them. Your last has cured me of inhophobia<sup>1</sup> which I have long endeavoured to get the better of in vain. I hope you will soon repeat the dose to prevent a relapse. My dear Doctor without having further recourse to the Dispensary I am extremely glad to hear of y<sup>r</sup> health and prosperity, and above all to find you preserve your *gaieté de ceure* in all climates.

*Omnis Aristippum decuit et color et status  
Sectantem majora, fere presentibus æquum.*

But it is no wonder to me to find you so at present who have known you *mecum tempus in ultimum deducte*, this was worse than *Wales Smithes iudice* and yet then you preserved your integrity.

Now it comes into my head to write about Job and Smith and first of the first being the most Ancient Parson. You must know I have anticipated the Restoration perhaps half a century at the expense of 50 pounds which I have payd Dr Wright for his fine picture, and I expect its arrival in a few days. Camillo is very well and has done several copies of ancient pictures for Dr Mead who with his household salutes you. We thank you for your kind invitation to Annie. The greatest difficulty in the matter is my wife's parting with her, which however she has got over in regard to her as well as to you and Mrs Cunninghame because we are persuaded her health will be the better of it. She shall set out some time next month as per advice. We hope to have her place supplied by her sister C., but this wants confirmation.

Be it known to you moreover that to us a son is born and we have called

<sup>1</sup> Allan Ramsay senr. speaks of his son "wandering about with great length of under lip" for want of Sir Alexander's cheerful society, from which we may presume that the ailment of which he was cured by this letter was something in the nature of hypochondria.

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his name Allan, hoping to hear the like from you. You tell me you make money very fast by not being at home. I do the same but tis by never being abroad. You hope that *in otia tuta requires*, I that I shall ride above *in celera pene gemelli*. I have put all your *Vanlois* and *Soldis* and *Rosios* to flight and now play the first fiddle myself.

My wife and sister and young hopefull join with me in their compliments to Mrs Cunninghame and you.—I am, etc., etc.,

ALLAN RAMSAY.

From Allan Ramsay Sen<sup>r</sup>.

Edin<sup>r</sup> July 12 1740

DEAR DOCTOR.—Yours with the enclosed came safe to hand last post I received as I will ever with pleasure all accounts of y<sup>r</sup> happiness.

Be it kend to you O Doctor that here from my quiet retirement and from the sumit of Philosophy I look with pitty down on the mean spirited toild hagridden God forsaken slaves to ambition, luxury and filthy lucre. I assure you I will not accept of the Present of a Sceptre nor of a prime minister's comission. I could not endure the flattery of these trifles that the empty minds are so fond of, one that needs few things comes soonest to his purpose however, some few cases must be employed for the needful and when they are employed as yours are for the general Good of mankind as well as your own private Benefite must give a double satisfaction, go on and prosper, and soon as your Bark is freighted return with a fair wind to your own native coast, all in good time

I thank you kindly for y<sup>r</sup> care of my Annie make my gratefull acknowledgements acceptable for the same to y<sup>r</sup> Lady with my best wishes for the stability of her Health and cheerfulness—neus from this place I ken little worth your hearing, we are all gaping to learn the upshot of the present publick hurly-burly with Spain, w<sup>h</sup> never rob'd me of an hour's sleep. We have at present as numerous a meeting of our greatest peers as has been for many years past. We have had a very drouthy Summer—all kinds of grain are high priced, but we have the promise of a good and early crop.

The little grass I had my cow eat up in a month's time but the good natured Beast eats her winline of Bought Grass Hay and Draff with all good humour imaginable gives her six pints dailie<sup>1</sup> three yellow pounds weekly, my cocks crow and Hens lay with cheerfulness and civility.

<sup>1</sup> One pint Scots=three pints imperial measure.



## Death of Sir William Cunyngham 143

I delivered the signed blank paper to your sister, who is extremely well was in my house yesterday.

My rising family in London are all well and prospering as you would wish.

My wife enjoys her health perfectly well in her new habitation as all the rest of us do, Withall our kindest respects to you and your Lady I am Dear Sir yr most humble serv<sup>t</sup> and sicker friend

ALLAN RAMSAY primus.

On Aug<sup>st</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1740, Allan jun<sup>r</sup> again takes up his pen and writes on the death of his friend's father, Sir William Cunyngham of Prestonfield :—

“DEAR DOCTOR.—

I heartily condole with you on the Death of the venerable old gentleman tho' those things being the common and inevitable lot of mankind cannot bring any surprise to a philosopher like you. It's what we must all come to and after you have by your skill preserved the insides of one half of England and I by mine the out, perhaps the best side of the two *Ita tamen restat quo Numa devenit est arcus. Pulvis et umbra sumus.*

Where Hipocrates and Appelles S<sup>t</sup> Luke Ratcliff and S<sup>r</sup> Godfrey have gone before us, with a numerous suite of Patients and pictures that have come to an untimely end.

Now for the living, I hope Mrs Cuninghame is very well and that my sister is likewise in a good way, because we have several good reasons for wishing her to proceed homewards, one is the approaching bad weather, another my wife is beginning to be sick again which makes her business lonely and fatiguing to her without a help mate.

Therefore, with your permission we should be glad to have her set out the first of next month by land to London, if a proper opportunity should cast up, or if not to Bath with some carefull man either in chaise or a horseback and whatever money she may have occasion for I beg you may furnish her with, which shall be remitted upon the first notice. I had a letter lately from Camillo, who sends his love to you, and knowing you to be acquainted with Will Mossman desires you might speak to him about 70 crowns he is owing him, and has neither answered any letters he has lately wrote to him upon the subject. If you can do anything in this to

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serve him it will be meritorious, for you know he is an honest young fellow, and has met with several rubs in the same way, as witness Turnbull, who owes him 15 pound, and I am afraid, poor man, will never be in a capacity to pay him. I had before a very good opinion of Mossman and had determined to employ him to paint my mother in laws picture for my own house, but I shall wait the upshot of Camillo's 70 crowns. I hope to hear from you by the first post, and am, with my best respects to Mrs Cuninghame, etc., etc.,

ALLAN RAMSAY.

Love's young dream seems to have played very considerable havoc in the Cunyngham family, for again a clandestine marriage takes place, as will be seen from this letter, written by Mr Fergusson of Caitlock, to Lady Cunyngham, anent his running away with her daughter Janet. Possibly the proposed Protestant nunnery may have had something to do with the young ladies taking the law into their own hands, although they all bear testimony to the indulgence and great affection of their parents.

"Edinr. 30 August 1742.

MADAM,—I Presume humbly by this to address myself to your Ladiship and to own myself extreamly bleamable in inducing your Daughter to make such a materiall step in her life as marriage without previously obtaining your Ladiship's advice; as you have always been one of the most kind and indulgent parents to that young lady, who I must freely own has been the sole object of my love and affection for a considerable time.

I do most sincerely entreat your Ladiship wou'd continue that goodness and gentleness which, according to my best Information, has been always familiar to you, and suffer me in the way of this letter to acknowledge the fault I stand guilty of, and allow me, when your Ladiship shall judge it a fit and proper time to approach you, that I may there with openness and candour beg your Ladiship's Pardon for my offence, great as it is. I assure your Ladiship nothing could have moved me to take such an undutifull step, but that my fortune was so much unequall to your Daughter's merite, I was afraid lest my adresses should be frustrated, and the Disappointment would have really quite defeated me and render'd my

after Life extremely unhappy, since without her nothing in this world could have given me the least comfort.

I understand that your Ladiship has been pleased to use my Dearest Life, upon her marriage being discovered to you, with great tenderness and mildness. Your acting such a kind and benevolent part towards her is what she and I both shall ever entertain the most gratefull sense of and contribute all we can by our after conduct to deserve the countenance and regard of such a worthy and valuable Lady.

And as I can take no rest in my mind while I am conscious to myself I ly justly under your Ladiship's Displeasure, I took the liberty last week to write a few lines humbly acknowledging my ffault, which Mr Nairn intended to have waited on your Ladiship with, but as your indisposition at the time he called prevented his having the pleasure of seeing you and Delivering his message and also of conferring with you a little more fully on the subject of it, I hope you will now Pardon my taking this way of conveying my letter to your hand. If it has the smallest effect to incline your Ladiship to favour me with your Countenance, which I now only most ardently wish for as the greatest addition I can desire to my present happy state, so great an act of Goodness must undoubtedly lay me under the strongest Tyes of gratitude.

In all events permit me to assure your Ladiship from the Sincerity of my Heart, that nothing earthly for the future shall be more my earnest Study and Endeavour than to prove a Dutifull Husband to your Daughter and make her live in the most comfortable way I can, who has Condescended to make me so happy, and in every other Respect in all time coming to testify that with the Utmost Duty and Esteem

I am Madam

Your Ladiship's most obedient Humble Servant

ALEX. FURGUSSON.

Again, old Allan, with his characteristic honesty and straightforwardness, writes in an amusing vein begging the Doctor to be careful of the health of "our Brethren the old Brittons!" Pitying the poor "ffrench Body's starving among the German Hills," and finally touching on the flinty-heartedness of the Dowager Lady at Prestonfield, who held the purse-strings closer than he thought warrantable. At the end he breaks into rhyme.

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"Edr. Novr. 18th 1742

DEAR DOCTOR,—Yours came safe to hand and glad I was to hear of your Lady's Health and that you baith continue in your laudable langing, Raxing and gawnting,<sup>1</sup> for your Restoration, and ther is not a wight in a' the Covenanted Land of Cakes wishes to see that day more than I do, however, since your fate it is to be Exiles for while of your Life make the best use ye can of your sojourning that (paper here torn), be vigilant, be eydent,<sup>2</sup> be prudent, be carefull about the health of our Brethren the old Brittons that they may all chearfully speak to the Purpose and be fully convinced that the *Nostrums Catholicans and Materia Medicas* of a Learned Calledonian Physician are of more real Benefit to Life than bursten Bags of filthy Lucre, however it is not amiss that you should lay by a Modicum of the same Trash to Lend a han to the Cape-stane<sup>3</sup> of your Bower of Clermiston where may ye soon arrive to laugh out a lang life where I hope often to bear a Bob with ye these mony gay years yet to come, for thanks to the Almighty I ken naithing about eild yet,<sup>4</sup> and let me sound it in your Lug,<sup>5</sup> ther is not a cherl that wears a head Lives with more honour and Independance than I do upon so litle, yet I have enough because I think sae, wae be to the (following words illegible) that like the Voracious Pikes worry up their harmless Betters and all to prop their pride and luxery selfish, and covetous whose Dwarfish sauls the dirtiest of vices leave no room for any humane or generous virtue. There must be a Hell (Jeremiah, thou reasonest well, Tophet is prepared of old for——) if it were only for the punishment of Princes and priests that oblige those who have the ill fate to be their slaves, to ding an anithers horns out, lord help the poor ffrench Body's that are starving amang the German Hills with naithing in them or on them is this a glorious way of Perishing for the honour of their Grand Monarque and their Holy father of Rome. O figh! but mark their end, such shall be accurst their memory shall stink and the Places they inhabit shall be happy when they ken them nae mair—while the humane, Blyth and ingenious who shine a blessing to their age like the first and best of men in the Golden Days, shall enjoy the true sweets of Life by their virtues and after they have finished their course ascend aloft like blazing stars leaving a long tract of light behind them.

Your Lady Mother is now bird alane, your sister Jenny is gone to the

<sup>1</sup> Reaching after and striving.

<sup>2</sup> Diligent.

<sup>3</sup> Cope-stone.

<sup>4</sup> *i.e.* I know nothing about old age yet.

<sup>5</sup> Ear.



country with her Galloway Jane about a fortnight ago, I went two days since to see my Lady and told I had a letter from you I was kindly received said she was glad to hear of your welfare, when I told her that part of the contents of your letter, tuned much on your fonder and love to your native countrey, she commended you for it, and we talkd much about you, but not to the main purpose. I make no question but that she loves you well but then I am not quite certain but she over loves to Hoard. Will ye try to cox, wheedle, fleech, shoot letters at a venture tell her you have two Brothers K<sup>t</sup> Baronets you are hers as well as they why should ye be a wandering Jew more than them, when she can prevent it by only settling a small annuity like £50 a year or so out of her Too much, which with your own would set you above dependance—this as you please.

My family at London are all well as are my wife two Daughters and grandson here who Joyn me in kindest wishes for health prosperity and all thats blyth to you and your Lady. I thought to have put this under a cover to Mr Campbell<sup>1</sup> and left him to have sent it to you from London but would not unless with your advice shall I do it next time to save postage tell me? I shall close with an Imitation of the sweet singer which is that part of my letter which falls to your spouse's share.

“On Pembroke plains we pensive walk’d  
 when sighing we thought on  
 the gowanie parks and gowden Riggs  
 of our ain Clermiston.  
 Where now with spreading verdures crown’d  
 the plantings stoutly stand  
 the Thickets and the fencing Hedge  
 set there by our ain Hand.  
 When the Cauldwald’rians demand  
 frae us a . . . sang,  
 we find our pipes quite out of tune  
 and ilka note rins wrang.  
 How can we sing or laugh or Dance  
 sae far frae friday Height,  
 wher fforth frae Stirling to the Bass  
 with beautys chears the sight.

---

<sup>1</sup> Mr Campbell of Cawdor.



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Where fleecy flocks and bearded gaits  
frisk through the Whinny bloom ;  
the Bees delight, which fills the air  
with healthiest perfume.  
Tho' fatness flows in fullest floods  
'midst pork and Pudding here,  
and pears and Peaches are as rife  
as Dog-hips on the Brier."

The last verse is almost illegible, and the humour of what remains is somewhat broad. He concludes :

"Again, with my Love and Service to you Both,  
I am, Sir and Madam,  
Your real friend and humble Servt.,  
ALLAN RAMSAY.

P.S.—Just before I sealed up this Katie sang it twice over to the tune of 'Will ye go to flanders my Mally-o,' and it does exactly.

From the same.

Edr. febr. 25 1744.

"After a long silence yours of febr. 11th on the 22nd came to hand and gave me pleasure to hear that you were hale and well living. I wondered much that I never heard of your receiving my Last with parodie on the 137 Psalm for that letter you mention never came to me . . . I watna if I be a right counsellor for you to advise with about your flitting, because I am a party and prejudiced in favour of your design for the Love I have to be now and then in your company and further I ever give my vote for the quiet Philosphicall Life ; but the Question is if any of the sons of Adam has so much of the courage and art to hit it as your humble servt. I dare be Poor and can gar twenty shillings gang farrer some can twenty pounds.

Well now this premised I think you are right to restore your self from banishment and come back to the Bosom of your friends and countrey, this I seriously think right tho' your Lady Mother should differ from me, were I in her place your stipend should be at Least doubled and this I told her with my usual laughing frankness, but poor woman she has a

numerous family of about 18 O's, many of whom perhaps she thinks will be little better than cyphers if she do not help them to make a figure.

Make my regards for your Lady acceptable and tell her our grief can neither bring again my dear wife nor her kind sister.

This world is freighted with wonders in store,  
and we were sent to it to think and explore,  
and when the due summons shall call us away  
No more's to be said but contented obey.

My Lasses have their complements to you and Lady, we are all well and merry, and I am, Sir, with all sincerity, etc., etc.,

ALLAN RAMSAY.

Old Allan Ramsay's peaceful life on the Castle Hill suffered a somewhat sudden and rude invasion the year after the last letter was penned. That this intrusion was peculiarly unwelcome there can be no doubt, for though there is but slight reference to the subject, he more than once expresses his sentiments on the futility of the Stuart risings. As a rule, like others who valued their peace, he lay low in matters political, said little, and wrote nothing.

The following extract from the "*London Evening Post* of Thursday, Oct. 10th, 1745," describes what took place on that occasion:—

"On Tuesday last about Four in the Afternoon, a small Party of the Rebels under the Command of Cameron of Lochyell, possessed themselves of a little House, belonging to Mr Allan Ramsay, situated near the North Bank of the Castle hill, Edinburgh, and fired from thence with muskets upon the Centenals at the Low Guard, where upon the Castle fired upon them kill'd several and slightly wounded others, amongst whom their Commander is one. At the same time several Cannon were fired upon the High Town and Musket shot upon the Grass-Market, by which last One Woman was wounded and no more Harm done: Thus this romantick Attack upon the Castle issued to the Shame of the Rebels; but to the great disturbance of the innocent Inhabitants of the City, who were thereby put into great Consternation and Confusion."

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The death of Sir Wm. Cunyngham occurred in 1740, two years before Mr Fergusson of Caitloch took French leave and married Miss Janet. Sir William was succeeded by his eldest son John, in the Baronetcy of Cunyngham or Cuninghame, his second son William having already succeeded to the Baronetcy of Dick, on the death of his grandfather, Sir James; Sir William Dick survived his father but a few years, and was succeeded by his next brother, Doctor Alexander Cunyngham in 1746, who from that time became Sir Alexander Dick.

Sir Alexander had been practising his profession in Pembroke-shire, since his return from Italy; but the rebellion under Prince Charlie beginning in 1745, he felt it to be his duty to come and live at Cameron, a house on the property of Prestonfield, where his mother, then a very old lady, resided. The Highland army was for a while encamped in the neighbouring village of Duddingston, and he could not very well leave her alone in such disturbed times.

There is a singular silence in Sir Alexander's memoranda on the events which then occurred, this in itself is curious, since, being in politics a Whig, no suspicion was likely to fall upon him; but the reluctance to put down anything in writing is very evident, and especially noteworthy in one personally acquainted with the Prince and his immediate followers, who would naturally on that account have all the more to say.

This silence marks very distinctly the insecurity that must have been felt. There is, however, one little bit of evidence in the accompanying receipt which is extremely significant.

The signature is that of Edward Murray, then acting Secretary to the Prince.

The story has been handed down in the family that a fugitive from the battle of Prestonpans, where Sir John Cope's army was

July overhouse Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 23-1743

Then received from my Lady Cunningham the sum of  
one hundred pound Sterling for the use of his Royal  
Highness the Prince of Wales

J. M. M. M.





utterly routed in ten minutes by the Jacobites, found refuge in a secret hiding-place behind the panel in the wall of the drawing-room, where he was safely housed until able to make good his escape. For, when Prince Charlie returned to Holyrood, his army, as before mentioned, was encamped at Duddingston, within a few fields of Prestonfield House, and all Scotland was in the hands of his party. This hiding-place is still intact, the space being just sufficient to allow of a man standing upright. The concealment of the panel is completed by a picture hanging over the wood-work, the walls elsewhere being hung with tapestry.

Annexed is a copy of the printed order which was issued by Prince Charlie for the wearing of the White Cockade.

#### THE FOLLOWING ORDER IS PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS it is necessary for preserving the Regularity of our Army that all Volunteers that have or may offer their Service to us join themselves to some Regiment of Foot or Horse, or Train of Artillery, so that they may be mustered, paid, and do Duty amongst with them; We therefore hereby order all the said Volunteers already in our Service to join as aforesaid within forty-eight Hours after the Publication hereof, and such as shall hereafter offer their service to us, are to join as aforesaid within forty-eight Hours after their Arrival at our Army.

And we hereby prohibite and discharge, under our highest Displeasure, any Person or Persons to wear Cockades, unless they be joined as said is, or belong to the Conductors of our Baggage, Forage, Provisions, Household, or other Branch of our service.

Given at our Palace of *Holy-rood-house*, the twenty-second Day of October 1745.

Though the rebellion was quelled in 1746, the penalty was paid by many a head, one of the number being that of Sir Alex-

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ander's first cousin, Sir Archibald Primrose, the eldest son of his Aunt Lady Dunipace,<sup>1</sup> a very gay young spark. He, with ten others, was executed at Carlisle on the 15th November 1746, leaving behind him seven daughters and one son, whose death is recorded in a contemporary paper as having taken place in Edinburgh on the 29th January 1747. As a rebel, his property was of course confiscated, and his family were entirely dependent on the bounty of their relatives. Sir Alexander, with his usual generosity, appears to have taken the unfortunate children under his especial charge, as will be seen by the following letter from Lord Primrose, dated

"Edinr. 23 Sept. 1755.

The unhappy situation of Sir Arch. Primrose's children gives occasion to my troubling you, that has been their best friend, to assure you that I shall at all times be happy at any opportunity of joining you and your brother in doing the children any good that lays in my power, and with regard to them, allow me to put myself entirely under your discretion, who understands their affairs so well, etc., etc.—I am, sir, your most humble servant,

PRIMROSE.

Sir Alexander refers to this matter in his Diary, giving an account of what was done in their behalf. He says:

"My Lord Dalmeny the Earl of Roseberry's eldest son, my Brother Sir John Cuninghame and I agreed to purchase the family estate of Dunipace at the sale of the forfeiture before the Exchequer and had the good fortune to clear betwixt 7000 and 8000 Scots Merks a-piece for the behoof of the young ladies. . . . The Ladies themselves behaved exceedingly well and merited the goodness of government who by the Earl of Roseberry their cousin's application for them have obtained genteel pensions for those that were most necissitous."

These, however, were not the only friends in trouble, his

<sup>1</sup> The only letter from Lady Dunipace that has been preserved is to her nephew Sir William Cunyngham. She writes to him from Polmaise, bidding him send a horse to fetch her away. "It is a padd hors I wold hav as I ryed doubell."

brother-in-law Sir John Douglas of Kelhead spent some time, at the expense of the Country, in the Tower of London, while Sir Alexander acted a Father's part to his daughters; and Mr, afterwards Sir Robert Strange, who had married his cousin Miss Lumsden, had to fly the country.<sup>1</sup> Of both of these mention is made in the correspondence yet to be recorded.

Dr Doran in his book entitled "London in Jacobite Times," gives Denistoun as his authority for the following description of Robert Strange's escape from his pursuers, after the battle of Culloden, where he had acted as "Moneyr" to Prince Charlie and was also a gentleman of his Life Guards.

But first, to explain how this young man came to be there at all, it must be recorded, that in 1744 he fell head over ears in love with bonnie Miss Isabella Lumsden. A piece of presumption on his part, that lady being above him in birth and position, as he was then a young and comparatively unknown artist and engraver.

She however seems to have taken the young man's adoration kindly, but at the same time gave him to understand that no one could be a lover of hers, who was not ready to fight for her Prince. This, as her slave, he was ready and willing to do.

He escaped in the following manner.

"After Culloden he had a terrible game of hide and seek for his life, and at last reached Edinburgh; when, hotly pressed, Strange dashed into the room, where his lady whose zeal had enlisted him in the fatal cause, sat singing at her needlework, and failing other means of concealment, was indebted to her prompt invention. As she quietly raised her hooped gown, the affianced lover quickly disappeared beneath its ample contour; where thanks to her cool demeanour and unfaltering notes he lay undetected while the rude and baffled soldiery ransacked the house."

<sup>1</sup> Robert Strange continued to reside in Edinburgh for some time after his marriage in 1747, but becoming uneasy, he went abroad. There, as an artist, his works were more considered than his politics. He was knighted by H.M. George III., whereas most of his compatriots were beheaded.

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While all Scotland was absorbed with the affairs of Prince Charlie, England seemed to take but little notice of the agitation which overflowed its border, if we may judge by the small space allotted to Scotch news in the London papers of the day. A paragraph of ten to twelve lines sufficed to tell what was doing, although occasionally a little extra space was accorded for a skit on the Highlanders, to bring them into contempt. Of these the two following are an example.

*London Evening Post* of November 2 to November 5 1745. Amongst the several Rejoicings upon His Majesties Birthday the following Procession was made at Deptford, viz.

1. A Highlander in his proper Dress carrying on a Pole a Pair of Wooden Shoes with this Motto

*The Newest Make from Paris.*

2. A Jesuit, in his proper Dress carrying on the Point of a long Flaming Sword, a Banner with this Description in large Capitals

*Inquisition, Flames and Damnation.*

3. Two Capuchin Friars properly shaved, habited and accoutred with Flogging Ropes, Beads, Crucifixes, etc. One of them bore on a high Pole a Bell, Mass Book and Candles to curse the British Nation with, the other carried a Standard with this Inscription

Indulgences Cheap as dirt

Murder	.	.	.	.	.	.	Ninepence.
Adultery	.	.	.	.	.	.	Ninepence halfpenny.
Reading the Bible	.	.	.	.	.	.	A thousand pence.
Fornication	.	.	.	.	.	.	Fourpence halfpenny farthing.
Perjury	.	.	.	.	.	.	Nothing at all.
Rebellion	.	.	.	.	.	.	A reward or Drawback of Thirteen pence halfpenny Scots Money.

4. The Pretender with a green Riband Nosegay of Thistles &c. riding upon an Ass, supported by a Frenchman on the Right and a Spaniard on the Left each dress'd to the height of the newest modes from Paris and Madrid.



## 5. The Pope riding upon his Bull.

The Procession was preceded and closed by all sorts of rough musick and after a March round the Town the Pope and Pretender were in the Evening committed to the Flames, according to custom, but not 'till they had first been confess'd, absolv'd and purg'd with Holy Water by the Jesuit. The several Actors play'd their part with great Drollery, and the only Token of Affection to Popery which the Spectators gave was a liberal Contribution to the Money boxes of the two Begging Friars.

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### "THE HIGHLANDERS PEDIGREE."

Taken from the London *Evening Post*, Jan. 16, 1746.

"Cain the first Murd'rer when from Eden driven  
And doom'd to wander by Decree of Heaven  
Retir'd as we are told, to the Land of *Nod*  
A Place, besure the farthermost from God :  
Which makes some think Northwards his Course he bent  
As far as Scotland e're he pitch'd his Tent ;  
Where he a City built, of ancient Fame  
Which he from *Eden Edensburgh* did name,  
But thought the *Highlands* the more fertile Place  
To propagate around his Murd'rous Race ;  
*Rebellion here* with *Treason*, grew betimes,  
Those Sons of Murder, with thousand other Crimes  
Hence Royal *Duncan* in his Bed was slain  
By false *Macbeth*, the Royal Power to gain ;  
And Bothwell, bloody Minister of State  
Made *Darnly* share the same unhappy Fate  
And *Charles* the Martyr 'gainst you stands enroll'd  
Whom *Judas* like, your Royal Master Sold  
From these curs'd Seeds of Traytors sprung the Birth  
Of Glencos, Glenbuckets, Ogilvies and Perth."

In place of a letter, Allan Ramsay junr., follows his father's example and puts his sentiments into verse, after the fashion of



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the day; these, though not touching on any of the events alluded to above, are inserted here for the sake of continuing as nearly as possible the sequence of dates.

They are in manuscript of his own writing.

### "A CONVENIENT PLACE TO DESERT TO."

By A. Ramsay Junr. 1745.

#### I.

Yet craves not lofty Rooms my heart  
Where fire and froi and a desert  
Await the pampering train;  
Nor would I waste my youthfull age  
To loll in splendid Equipage  
The envy of the vain.

#### 2.

Be mine a House tho clean but small  
To pay no Window Tax at all  
And temperate my Board;  
No poysonous Draughts that fiends convey  
To kill the night and damn the day  
Its cellar should afford.

#### 3.

But there I'd pass the careless hour  
Now gay now serious, never soar  
And Enjoy with sense and Rest;  
Far from the Isipid vulgar crew  
A Book or such a friend as you  
Most stoically blest.

## Chapter X.

The old lady on the other side of the town—Her Letter—A country house Visit—Haunch Hoops and Cobweb Capuchins—Sir R. gone to y<sup>e</sup> Divel—Allan Ramsay pays a Visit—His son writes from Italy—Mr Ramsay's Poems—Verses in Old Scots—Lady Dick's invitation.

[1742-1755]



## Chapter X.

THERE is but one letter from Sir William Dick after he succeeded, written to his brother Alexander on January 6th 1742 from Corstorphine, in which he says

“Im very glade to understand that you have got quite free of your fever it is a disease that has been verie common here and has often proved mortal and indeed our family has not escap'd the Dismal effects of it for our poor sister Douglas was snatch'd away by it in a very few days illness. You may believe her Death was as great greef to us all here as it is an irreparable loss to Sir John and his young family. The rest of your Friends in this County are all well for my own part I have had a visit this winter from my old Acquittance the Gout w<sup>h</sup> has had no other bad effect than to make me change the colour of my Wine. Our brother Sir John has not been in this country since you left.

The Old Lady<sup>1</sup> on the other side of the town is as you left her taking what she can and parting with nothing. Their is no news in this place worth y<sup>r</sup> attention. We expect great ones upon the sitting down of the Parliament whether good or bad a little time will discover. When you have leisure a line now and then will be very agreeable

D<sup>r</sup> Brother

Y<sup>rs</sup> most affectionately

WILLIAM DICK.”

“The old Lady on the other side of the town,” as Sir William most disrespectfully styles his mother, writes to her son, Sir John, on his marriage with Lady Betty Montgomerie, giving him, as she truly says, the trouble of a great many scratches, for the writing is exceedingly shaky, travelling up and down the paper so as to be almost illegible. What can be made out, however, is worth recording both for the wording and the spelling.

<sup>1</sup> Lady Cunyngham of Prestonfield.

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The letter is directed to

"Barnot

Sir John Cuninghame  
of Capringtoun

To the Caer of the post master

Kilmarnock

prestonfield July 20 1749

MY

DAER JOHN

My Anxiety for you makes me give you the trubl of a great money scratches. You may be shour I wad have given Lady Bette in return for her kind axoptance of my congratlarshon and welkem her into my famely by her proper name of Cuninghame. You know why I did not." Then follow some remarks on money matters of no interest.

"There is no Body expacks but Ladey Batey most go often to Eglonten and you and her are expackted to do so with her brother (illegible) altho you do not consell (illegible) marage it may loinger

I Ever Ame Your Varey Loving Mother

Whil<sup>1</sup> JANET DICK."

The old lady signs under her maiden name, which she retained as heiress of Prestonfield. In reading the above it must be remembered that she was married in 1696. The date of her birth is not to be traced.

The next letter of congratulation is from Lord Eglinton, the young Earl who was recommended not to marry an English lady, to Sir John Cunyngham, on his marriage to the writer's sister. It is dated London 24th July 1749.

"DEAR SIR JOHN,—I received yours of the 25th of last month only last night you may be sure it gave me great pleasure to find two people I have so great a regard for in so fair a way to make one another happy. I suppose you expect a letter of compliment from me on this subject, but as I am desperately bad at that sort of writing you must excuse me and take my really wishing you and my sister all the happiness you propose

<sup>1</sup> Whilom.



instead of all the fine things one of a better genius and less friendship might say, so speed the Plow and believe me to be,

Dear Sir John, y<sup>r</sup> most affect<sup>d</sup> brother and humble servant,

EGLINTOUN.

And lastly there is another from the same, dated 27th December 1749, in which he says :

"My compliments to the Great Gast with a Merry Christmass and I am glad to hear she is so fond of takeing a whisk to her bed after dinner, sans ceremonie,—Votre très humble,

EGLINTOUN.

The following description of a country house visit is written to Lady Dick, Sir Alexander's wife, by Mrs Mary Bowen, a former friend and acquaintance, when Sir Alexander and she lived near Pembroke.

feb<sup>r</sup> 3 1750

DEAR MADAM,—I am quite asham'd and almost afraid to write to your Ladyship, but I know you and often hear dear Lady Dick calling me a most ungrateful Devil for not answering her kind and most oblidging letter sooner but don't condemn me quite before heard as soon as I had the pleasure of yours which I read with duple Joy having almost dispair'd of that favour for which I was imediately going to thank y<sup>r</sup> Ld<sup>sh</sup> but recollecting that we were under an engagement to go to Williamston for a week I thought it would not be disagreeable if I should tell you how we past our time there. Mr and Mrs Bowen of Upton and their little Lasses went with us and four gentlemen and Lady's from Haverford came there which fill<sup>d</sup> the house we all stay<sup>d</sup> a fortnight and wase very merry the gen<sup>l</sup>men went ashooting all morning till dinner then we play cards till supper after that chatt by the fireside till bed time and so every day."

Then follow news of the various young ladies of Pembroke, and other small items. As usual the letter has a postscript.

P. S.—I had like forgott to assure your Ladyship that the Haunch Hoops and cobweb capuchins is my perfect aversion."

Sir John Douglas, at that time a Member of Parliament, writes from London on Feb. 6th, 1751, giving the following news.

"You have by this got y<sup>e</sup> acc<sup>t</sup> that Sir R—— and his slaves are all

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gone to ye Devil there is ye odest hubbub you can imagine a clean House is expected and not only an alteration of men but measures. Sir R—— takes refuge into y<sup>e</sup> House of Peers under the title of Earl of Orford Viscount Walpoole L<sup>d</sup> Haughton and his adultress daughter to take place as a Earl's Daughter and y<sup>e</sup> King has scheld 4000*£* of pension on him during life how far this will stand good God knows. Duke of Argyle is certainly to be gineralisimo and to have y<sup>e</sup> first Reg<sup>mt</sup> of Guards Master of y<sup>e</sup> Ordinances : D. of Malborough y<sup>e</sup> 2 Reg<sup>mt</sup> of Guards, L<sup>d</sup> Cobham D of M Troop of Horse Guards, L<sup>d</sup> Stair the Reg<sup>mt</sup> of Blue Horse and to go ambassador to Holland L<sup>d</sup> Willmington Chancelor of Exchequer. Cartaret President of y<sup>e</sup> Council D. of Newcastle L<sup>d</sup> L<sup>t</sup> of Irland L<sup>d</sup> Goar and Chesterfield.

Isla discarded and stript, Tweddale and Marchmont, Ministers for Scotland, Craigie, L<sup>d</sup> Advocate, James Grahame, Junior Solliciter. God knows all the alterations that are talked of I'm apt to believe no bodie can yet tell who are to succeed, but one thing I can venter to assure you is that Mr Polteny has refused all Employment, he will accept of nothing but being a Privie Councelor, when it was offord to make him Chancelor of ye Exchequer he said he was independant and would continue free, and that the greatest honour he could ever receive was to be in ye House of Commons and to keep a watchfull eye upon ye Liberty's of his felow-subjects and to give his prince holsome and good advice and to tell him truth. If he keeps up to this character (which I'm sure he will) he may justly be syld ye Tutilar Angel of Britain. I shall from time to time let you know what passes here. If things wer once upon such a footing as I could goe down to Scotland, I mean our majaroty a Little more strengthened, I could wish to be with my Dear Motherless Infants. There is my particular care fixed, but at this criticall time I must think it my Duty to give my country the preferance, etc., etc.—I ever am yours, J. DOUGLAS.

Allan Ramsay junr. writes from Covent Garden, June 4th, 1752, with congratulations on the birth of a son and heir.

"DEAR SIR ALEXANDER,—Everything thrives at thrice, says the proverb; and I know not that I ever had it verify'd more to my satisfaction than when I heard of y<sup>r</sup> son's birth.

I should rejoice at your joy, let the motive of it be what it would, but doubly on this occasion as I am an utter and profess'd enemy to whatever puts the happiness of family's in a precarious state by capriciously making

property jump out of one channel into another ; often snatching it suddenly from one family, to which by use it is become necessary, to bestow it upon another which did not expect or perhaps stand in need of it. In short, tho' an absolute Whig in my politicks, I am in private affairs a great friend to the hereditary and indefeasible right of succession ; all entails and salick laws to the contrary notwithstanding.

My wife, who, having attired herself in the jumps, has a fellow-feeling of her own sort in Lady Dick's happy delivery, joins with me in her hearty congratulations, who am ever Sir Alex. and Lady Dick's most affect<sup>d</sup> and most faithfull servant,

ALLAN RAMSAY.

From Allan Ramsay senr.

"SIR,—Our whole family at pennycuik go for E<sup>dr</sup> the midle of next week, and are to be my near neighbours in the Castle-hill, Sir James<sup>1</sup> having bought that house that belonged to Lord Semple, two of our young Ladies have been in E<sup>dr</sup> for eight days past to put things in order—if it be not inconvenient I would ask the favour of your chaise against Tuesday or Wednesday next to transport your old philosopher to your palace on the Lake.<sup>2</sup> Let not Jenny nor any els come along with the machine to accompany me. I do not want it on a short day, and bad road, but mainly Lady Dick is not at present to be Left a moment. God send her the happy hour, and preserve you all from Thunder, Lightning, and Earthquakes, sickness, and the mulligrubs. I am, Sir, your ever obliged humble servant,

ALLAN RAMSAY.

Pen<sup>k</sup> friday 12<sup>th</sup> X<sup>ber</sup> 1755."

The following is a portion of a letter, the first sheet of which is missing, which seems to have been indited to Lady Dick in August of 1755.

. . . "the intervening Joke and early laugh goes round and now and then we settle the affairs of the sputter like to be in the western world between us and the grand-cheater of France we look down on the Divil the pope and all the poor priest ridden Rascalls of Europe from the idiot that pretends to govern to the laigh-simpleton<sup>3</sup> that is obliged to be a slave.

We concluded with a concert of vocal musick led on by Miss Jackie,<sup>4</sup> who has one of the best and sweetest voices in Brittain, which was folowed by a Dance which for dignity we shall call a Ball.

<sup>1</sup> Sir James Clerk, Bart. of Pennicuik.

<sup>2</sup> Duddingston.

<sup>3</sup> Low simpleton.

<sup>4</sup> Miss Clerk of Pennicuik.

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A few days after we had a match of the same kind at which Comis' Smolet and Miss M'Cleghorn bore a part, all of a pice with the former.

My service to S<sup>r</sup> Alex. and Love to Miss Jessy health and the happy hour to your Self I am

Madam

Your Ladyships

Most humble & devoted Servant

ALLAN RAMSAY.

From the same

We lost sight of the Sun for seven days after I had your last, along with Jenny's, we were wrapt in thick mist the rain pourd in Torents and roard from the Mountains carrying all before them. Bridges, mill-dams, trees and Rocks—all this with Bad accounts from Minorca fix'd us all in Dumps within Doors—however the old brave Generall and your friend Major Cuninghame appear in a most honourable light, while poltroons of figure are and will be held in contempt while Briton has annals.

Well what am I doing, say ye I shall tell you now the weather being fair and sweet, for as great a philosopher and lover of all the calm and sociall virtues as I am I cannot help going along with aiding and abateing, one of the greatest Hywaymen that has apeard in our Hemisphere, who mentains a gang who leave not a Stone unturned to carry on his Mechana-tions. You may talk of your Johnny Armstrong and his eight score of men, he was nothing to him, he has at his command and in pay many moe visible and invisible, he has more than five score of the invisibles who laugh at sun moon and stars if they can get a bawbee candle, these he Cantons in the Neathrlands of the Kitle-purse and stinky who pudle in deep caverns for the benefit of Auld-Reeky to gar her pots play and Jacks jingle. Next his gang of visibles Horse and foot might be Regimented and help well to lay the pride of France. Now what is most marvellous in this same Highwayman he does not allow his gangs to pick any bodys pocket but his own which they do to the tune of from five to eight pounds every day. I begin to fancy that he has found out the philosopher's stone, there is one part of it I am sure he knows for I have seen him turn a metal (like a black stone mixt with iron and sulphur) into good gold and silver.

The family here are all in good health there are few days that I do not walk three or four miles and have good spirits. God send no worse to



## A Second Journey to Italy 165

Lady Dick I desire to hear good and blyth acc<sup>ts</sup> of her, to whom my best and kindest respects—do not let her ly in Bed with her Head too high they say its an enemie to sleep. My love to Miss Jessie and Daughter Jenny let her write to me soon, with my wishes for your happiness I am Sir y<sup>r</sup> hearty friend, &c., &c.

ALLAN RAMSAY.

Mavisbank Aug<sup>st</sup> 2 1756.

Allan's son the painter meanwhile has returned to Rome, from which place he writes a description of his journey thither, which tallies in many respects with his former one when accompanied by Sir Alexander :—

“Rome Nov 12 1755

DEAR SIR ALEXANDER

I proposed making a return to your most welcome letter long ago, but put it off from week to week, expecting a letter from my sister which came not till within these few days and gives me the agreeable news of your welfare and the happy situation of Lady Dick. Long may your happiness continue and may we pass together the latter hours of our life as pleasantly as we have done many of the former. This immediately calls to my remembrance our journey into Italy of which this last was so exact a resemblance in dates and circumstances that the comparison was a constant amusement to me and will be some amusement to you when at meeting you hear it recounted, as we shall be able to do pretty minutely, by the help of the journal which my wife has kept ever since we left Edinburgh.

I shall only tell you here that when I came to Marseilles and found no vessel of any sort ready to sail eastwards except a Tartane loaded with wool packs for Antibes, I began to think the likeness betwixt the two journeys rather too exact and that we should proceed to be robb'd at Genoa and ship wreckt upon the coast of Tuscany. However by not going into this enchanted bark, the spell was dissolved. For after being put off from day to day by contrary winds &c. on the fourth we set out in chaises in company with other two gentlemen that happen'd to lodge in the same inn with us.

And indeed own were not far upon the road before we had reason to be thankful for the cross winds; for it is not to be conceived how beautifull that part of Provence is which lies betwixt Marseilles and



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Antibes. The valley of Aubaine which is encompass'd with high hills like an amphitheatre is like one continual garden of Vines fruit trees and flowering shrubs, and from Frejus to Cannes the road which was made for the troops in the last war winds insensibly over prodigious high mountains<sup>1</sup> all cover'd with variety of wood. At Cannes we supped and lay in the same rooms as last journey and next morning (the 4th) came to Antibes, expecting to be an hour or two before the French courier, who however came not till the morning following at day break. So we then went on board the feluque, and next day in the afternoon enter'd the port of Genoa.

On our landing we were ply'd by several Innkeepers, out of whom I chose the Croce di Malte as being nearest the port, having forgot my former acquaintance with it, but learnt next day from an old valet de place whom we got as usual to conduct us, that it was the house where your 14 Louis d'or went to pot, and that the man was returned from the galley's and at that time a corporal in the Guards. Having stay'd three days we went on board another feluque, and having no Jonas of a Parson in Company our voyage was most prosperous with most pleasant weather and bright moonshine—so that when we were not asleep we could see the coast as clearly almost by night as by day.

Next day we dined at Lerici in complaisance to the crew of the feluque who wanted to see their wives en passant, and at night arrived at Leghorn, our whole navigation along the coast from Antibes to Leghorn being performed in three days and a half and we all the while extremely well diverted, in which the second journey was more fortunate than the first. The rest of our journey to Pisa Florence and Rome was conducted in the same manner as the first except that finding ourselves very agreeably situated at Florence we stayed there two months. We lodged for a month on our coming to Rome on the Monte della Trinita, in the lodgings whilom possess'd by Walking Ben<sup>2</sup> of reverend memory, afterwards we took a house and furnished it where we now live, upon the ridge of the Mons Viminalio, from which we have a view of the most remarkable places of Ancient Rome.

Our rooms are spacious and standing high and at a distance from the Tiber, the air very wholesome. But that which chiefly recommends the situation to me is its distance from the Piazza di Spagna, by which I am enabled to seclude myself a good deal from the English travellers without

<sup>1</sup> The Estrelles,

<sup>2</sup> Parson Smith.

falling out with any of them, and to preserve the greater part of my time for painting, drawing and reading, which were I living in their neighbourhood would be altogether spent in dinners, suppers and jaunts. For the health and amusement of my family and to fulfill the desire I had of drawing some of the remarkable views, we lockt up our house and went for three weeks to Tivoli and having by the means of a friend here procured apartments in the Villa d'Este, we passed our time most pleasantly riding out almost every day upon asses to see the curiositys of nature and antiquity with which the neighbourhood abounds. In the midst of this leaving Katie at Tivoli to look after the child, my wife another English lady and I set out on an expedition that lasted two days and a half, which you or any man of elegant taste would have been glad to have partaken of, and which we shall remember with pleasure as long as we live. This was to go in search of Horace's farm in the Sabinia.

So we set out early one morning each upon our ass with a sumpter ass fraught with roast meat &c.

During the first day under a poplar by the side of the Anio and the second by a fountain which I took for the *fons Blandusia*, but was afterwards led by a country man to one that still better answered the description of Horace. But the particulars of this jaunt and my observations upon the ground compared to the passages that relate to it in the Poet I will defer till I can communicate to you at the same time the plan of the situation and some of the principal views, without which any description by words must remain obscure and defective.

All my family have preserved an uninterrupted health since we set out from Edinburgh, and my Daughter Amelia is very strong and sprightly never ceasing to be off her feet, but without any appearance of teeth. Having nothing very particular to say to my sister we shall put off writing to her for some weeks, please tell her that I was vastly surprised to find that Davis Martin was only set out from Edinburgh at the time that I had appointed for his arrival at Rome. It never can happen otherwise when people are so silly as to deliberate about things in which they are totally ignorant, instead of resigning themselves to those that are knowing and at the same time have no interest in deceiving them. They have now besides losing the boy 2 months out of 12, the most valuable in his life, sent him a journey that whether by land or sea must be very disagreeable and perhaps dangerous instead of that which would have been pleasant improving and safe.

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"My wife joins with me in her kindest wishes etc. etc. When you see Sandie Wedderburn present my kind service to him and tell him I shall be extremely glad to hear from him and that he would send me at the same time a copy of his friend Cox's song of the *Blue bells of Ireland*,—I am ever etc.

ALLAN RAMSAY.

While the son was writing from Italy, old Allan, the Poet, was also busy with his pen, as will be seen by the verses which are here facsimiled from the original. These accompanied a gift of two quarto volumes of his poetical works and verses written in his own hand, which were presented to Sir Alexander Dick a few years before the Poet passed to his long rest.

Sir Alexander tenders his acknowledgement in a few verses in the same style.

"Verses in old Scots to Mr Allan Ramsay, senior, on his presenting Sir Alexr. Dick with his two quarto volumes of his poetical works with Verses wrote with his own hand to Sir Alexander a few years before his death.

These three stanzas wrote by Sir Alexr. Dick to him."

### I

Hail be your Heart auld Canty Cairlie,  
Wha in your Time has rhim'd sai rairlie,  
And with your we'll weld<sup>1</sup> words sai fairlie  
Geen<sup>2</sup> Vice a Gouff<sup>3</sup>  
As made the snarling Criticks hairly<sup>4</sup>  
Nor dare, Yeouf yeouf.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "We'll weld" (weel waled) *i.e.* well chosen.

<sup>2</sup> "Geen" (gi'en) *i.e.* gave.

<sup>3</sup> "Gouff," a smart blow.

<sup>4</sup> "Hairly" from verb *Hair*, *har*, or *hare* to stir up, to frighten.

<sup>5</sup> "Yeouf," *i.e.* bark.

The first verse may be *translated* thus—

Hail be your heart old cheery fellow,  
Who in your time has rhymed so rarely,  
And with your well chosen words so fairly  
Gave Vice a blow  
That made the snarling critics tremble  
Nor dare *bow wow*.

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> fr Alex<sup>r</sup> Dick of  
Prestonpeth, Baronet with  
Mr Ramsay's Poems in this 2<sup>d</sup>  
Second Volum

---

My Worlhy Friend, whose ~~polish'd~~ mind  
springs far aboon the Common kind,  
Since in my Verses you can find  
what prompts your praise,  
allow your self to be propin'd  
with all my lays.

When I was clever, blith, & young,  
in braid stile of my mother Tongue,  
what Nature dictated I sung  
now as on Columns,  
them fair, for ever, I have hung  
up, in these Volums.

O may they always have the power  
to tune your fault, should it grow sour,  
and clear up ilka gloomy hour,  
when spleen is falkous,  
may they make canker'd care to Court  
with smiles sagacious.



\*

May you, & your fair Part'ner, Lang  
enjoy life free of the Swang  
to con my Gales, & lowf ilk Lang,  
can pleasure bring,  
'till ripe in years, aloft we spring  
with Saints to sing.

\*

Our Souls then freed frae Hools of clay,  
There we may hope to sing, & say,  
all that is great, Divinely Gay,  
and flights extend,  
O'er Space immense, wher Joy & Day  
shall never end.

To Allan Ramsay y<sup>e</sup> Author

Anno Domini: 1755. Et. æ. LXX



2

Wha can your gentle shepherd hear,  
 where Nature's voice speaks out sai clear,  
 But feels his saul as we'lls his ear  
     Weel tund to pleasure.  
 when you bang up your pipes we steer  
     To your Scots measure.

3

Best thanks for your most kind propine<sup>1</sup>  
 of all your works, the sacred Nine  
 Have datit you in ilka line  
     which they direckit.  
 A Bony Lass said, you, lang syne,  
     Should be confeckit.<sup>2</sup>

Lady Dick, not wishing to be outdone by her better-half,  
 puts her thanks into rhyme also, along with a most original  
 invitation—

"Dear Allan thanks to you and muse  
 Comes from myself and Knight my Spouse  
 For your kind canty cosh<sup>3</sup> Epistle  
 It warm'd my Heart and made me whistle  
 In spite of gloomy gloury weather  
 It made my soul as Light as Feather  
 Clapt Hold of Paper pen and Ink  
 To try my Hand if Rhime Cowed Clink  
 To tell you fairly my Best Reason  
 Was not that I had ought Aversion  
 For City Pastimes and Deversions  
 But that I have no mind to steal  
 And send poor trades folks to the Deil  
 Take aff Brau Cleathes Till goud in Purse  
 Can save me mony a heavy Curse  
 From Castle Hill to Nether Bou  
 Where folks most run the gauntlet now

<sup>1</sup> Gift.

<sup>2</sup> Preserved in sugar.

<sup>3</sup> Homely, or kindly and familiar.

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Who Run in Debt to all they meet  
And here there grumbling on the street  
But ready money when it comes  
Will make us all Rise from our Bums  
With Haste to spread the Blessing Round  
That is with Honest Plenty Cround  
The winds may goul the floods may flow  
But Peace of Mind they Ever know  
Who from Contentment know true Blis  
And envy no man what is His  
Dispise the Luxury of towns  
More upright Beaus than Down Right Clowns  
Admire old farant Comon sense  
Which Country Air and words Despence  
But now I see the Blooming Spring  
I see I feel it on the wing  
Haste Balmie gales and April shours  
And Deck my fields with all your flours  
Mien time Dear Allan know a Goose  
Well Feed and Roasted in the Juice  
With onions Pepper time and sage  
In Honour of the Last Years Stage  
Is sacrifised on Thursday next  
The Parson Comes the Hour is fixed  
Then let us Drown all Care in Claret  
My Knight expects you winna spare it."

The last communications to and from the old Poet have now been recorded. No mention is made of his death in the Memorandum Book, but the life and works of this quaint genius are so well described in an article written in *The Times* of 15th October 1886, on the occasion of his Bicentenary that we venture to quote one or two brief extracts here.

. . . "The most popular poet of his time in his own country, he was distinctly a poet of the people. Being his own publisher he adopted the best means of securing for his productions a wide

circulation. He issued them as they were written at a cost of one penny each broadsheet, and is thus entitled to the credit of having inaugurated cheap literature. . . .

"His 'Gentle Shepherd' was reprinted in London and was greatly admired by Pope and Gay, and other literary men of the Metropolis. . . .

"In his later years, as in his prime, he counted among his friends many of the leaders of Society in Edinburgh—such men as Lord President Forbes, Lord Elibank, Sir Alexander Dick of Prestonfield, Sir J. Clerk of Pennicuick and Lord Woodhouslea. He died full of honour and of years in 1758."

There was, however, one sturdy ignorer of the Scottish favourite. The reason of his being so is apparent from the description Boswell gives of a conversation he held with Dr Johnson.

"I spoke of Allan Ramsay's 'Gentle Shepherd' in the Scottish dialect, as the best pastoral that had ever been written; not only abounding with beautiful rural imagery and just pleasing sentiments, but being a real picture of manners; and I offered to teach Dr Johnson to understand it. 'No, Sir,' said he, 'I won't learn it. You shall retain your superiority by my not knowing it.'"<sup>1</sup>

It is not very generally known that although Allan Ramsay began life in very humble circumstances, he was by birth a gentleman, his father being a younger son of Ramsay of Dalhousie, and his mother Janet Douglas of Muthel. His father died young, leaving his wife and infant son almost penniless. To provide a home for herself and child, the widow shortly after married a small bonnet laird, one David Crichton, who gave Allan as good an education as he could afford, and then appren-

<sup>1</sup> Boswell's Life of Johnson.

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ticed him to a wig maker in Edinburgh, which was at that time a very profitable trade, and brought him into contact with men of every class. He easily obtained access to books, and spent his spare time in mastering the literature of the day. Thus was the slumbering genius brought to life. His first volume of poems was published in 1721.

## Chapter XI.

A greedy neighbour—The most valuable possession—The Countess of Abercorn's letters—A visit to London—Tom of Ten Thousand—Dr Benjamin Franklin—"Joys of Prestonfield Adieu"—A lover at hand—Franklin's Epitaph—Mrs Strange writes—Hogarth's lady—A nice piece of criticism—Mr Lamoli's ball.

[1757-60]





## Chapter XI.

THE next communication is from Allan Ramsay the Painter, to Sir Alexander, on the subject of some ground which has been filched away from the entry of his house during his absence from Edinburgh.

"London Aug<sup>st</sup> 23 1757

DEAR SIR ALEXANDER

I am always sorry when any misfortune happens to you, but have reason to be doubly so for the fit of the gout you have lately been confined with ; as it has been the cause of Mr Davidson's having the opportunity of stealing from me what I put great value upon, assuring you who could not be upon the spot, with his having taken nothing but a trifle, or as he ventures to tell me myself *what could not be worth above a few shillings*. He owns he has taken 3 feet from the breadth in my entry and I have reason to expect has taken more, for there is in his letter a dark confused account of his being ordered by the Dean of Guild Court, as he says, contrary to law to change the direction of his house and to breadthen the foot of the close for Mr Bairds Coach, which as far as I can understand from words that dont seem meant to be understood, has been done at my expense. I did not mean that any of my friends should enter into a treaty with him (if it can be called a treaty where something is given and nothing received in return *ubi tu pulsas ego vapulo tantum*) but only to keep a watchfull eye over his proceedings." Etc., etc.

Again writing from London, July 31, 1759, he says :

"It gives me great pleasure to hear that the loss of your first daughter is so happily supplied. You and I are now equally rich in what each of us esteem the most valuable of our possessions. May Heaven long preserve them to us. I was once in hopes of coming down to Scotland this summer with my wife and eldest daughter to see you and our friends there, but business which cannot be put off deprives me of that pleasure.

Perhaps by next year I may get my fetters a little slackened.

In the meantime please to present with mine my wife and sisters most

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heartly congratulations to Lady Dick whose health and spirits are I daresay much improved by this happy event.

I wish I had time for more conversation with Mr Millar,<sup>1</sup> whom I know to be a man of genius and observation—to such indeed a slight hint often furnish a long train of useful consequences; and I don't wonder at all that he should have profitted by those which I had the opportunity of communicating to him.

I passed a Sunday lately with Sergeant at his country house near Dartford. He is become one of the most domestic men you ever saw. Armstrong has been ill but is somewhat better. Of jolly James Fraser you can probably give a better account than I.—With my compliments, etc., etc.,

ALLAN RAMSAY.

Out of several letters of this period, those from the Countess of Abercorn to Lady Dick are charming specimens of a sprightly old lady writing under severe bodily affliction.

Cavendish Sq<sup>r</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 30th 1758.

My dear Lady Dick must think me the Idlest and most ungratefull of all mortals but upon the faith and honor of an honest woman your Letter and pretty picture never bless'd my eyesight till yesterday, if they had I think you will do me the justice to believe I should (as I now do) have taken the first opportunity of making my warmest acknowledgement for the pleasure you gave me; which would have been much greater if I had been so lucky as to have received it sooner, for after I had some time enjoy'd the seeing you and Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> in the Boat, good Mr Bennet walking in the Garden and the good women washing their Linen; with a thousand other prettinesses which you have thrown in, and above all pleasing myself with thinking that at the time you were putting them in, you had me in your thoughts, and thought of me as one that sincerely lov'd you, I unfortunately (for my quiet) cast my eye at the bottom of your letter (which my hurry at first made me overlook) and found it dated August the 30th. I was ready to drop! Good god said I to myself what different thoughts must dear Lady Dick entertain of me from those I have been flattering myself w<sup>th</sup>, and those thoughts to have been taking root for four long months, in this distress, I looked upon it as a piece of good

<sup>1</sup> A portrait painter of some renown.

fortune that Capt. Dalrymple<sup>1</sup> did us the favour to come in to dine w<sup>th</sup> us and found me tossed like a shuttlecock between satisfaction and vexation and was so good to promise to bear testimony for me, but as he is a young man and I am a very old woman, the odds are that he never thinks of me more, and perhaps I may better appeal to my good Friend Mr Bennet to witness for me whether or no I spoke of Lady Dick like one that would be so ungrateful to her kind remembrance of me. I assure you dear madam I dont want the view of Duddingston to put me in mind of you and it is with great regret that I reflect, it is more than probable I may never see you more. When I was in Scotland, it was a great undertaking at my age; but at that time I had the use of my Limbs as well as your generality of people near 70 have, since then I am not only grown nearer 70 but have so far lost the use of my Limbs as to make me incapable of any undertaking. I was taken the beginning of February in the bottom of my back and hip with violent pain which is call'd rheumatism; it got all down that Limb and swell'd the leg and foot to an enormous size the pain continued with great violence for some months which decreased by slow degrees, but has never left me one moment at ease to this day and now the swelling is abated, I find that the sinews or some of the ugly things in that leg and foot are shrunk, so that I cannot bend it and I am continually kept in hot water, w<sup>th</sup> the apprehension of its returning w<sup>th</sup> all its violence, in the meantime I make shift to crawl about the House; and go out in a chair to sit at a card table, but am very ill qualified for journeying and I learn from Capt. Dalrymple that you are not in a much fitter situation for travailing, which tho' it leaves me without any hope of your turning your face this way whilst I am crawling upon the earth, it gives me pleasure in the thoughts it does so to Sir Alexander and you. He tells me you are in expectation of a little-we-we-Dick, which I heartily wish may be answer'd to your full satisfaction, and am in great hopes it will give a turn to your constitution that will restore you to perfect health and happiness. Lord Abercorn with his compliments to Prestonfield bids me say he wishes Duddingston afforded any thing that could be agreeable to you but is afraid it is very scanty in its produce and now methinks I hear you say—Why does this old woman trouble me w<sup>th</sup> such a long Stupid letter? to w<sup>h</sup> I answer that as to the length of it I suppose I find a pleasure in prating to you; as to the stupidity I suppose it is natural, but if it ever was otherwise, how should

<sup>1</sup> Sir Alexander's nephew.

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it be so now? when my head for these eleven months has been w<sup>th</sup> my great foot in my great shoe, and I cannot yet release you till I have wish'd Sir Alexander and you and Miss Dick all the happiness that the approaching and many future years can furnish and assure you that I am

Dear Madam

Y<sup>r</sup> most sincere well wisher  
and oblig'd humble ser<sup>vt</sup>

A. ABERCORN.

If you would add to the many obligations I have had to you it must be to telling me w<sup>th</sup> your good sincere Heart what sort of thing this part of the world produces that would be agreeable to you, and you must tell me soon or I shall be Dead. We drank yesterday in Punch to all that are and are expected at Prestonfield.

She did not die then however, but lived to write to her friend in the following year, who was herself soon after taken from this world.

Oct. 29th 1759.

“How can dear Lady Dick be so good to think of such a poor miserable good for nothing creature as I am and how can I love her and thank her enough for remembering me. I am sensible I have no merit, but I have too much sincerity to take any to myself that does not belong to me and therefore must fairly own that no thanks are due to me for Lord Abercorns appearance in Duddingston, it went very near my Heart to part with him and I was strongly possess'd that I should never live to see him again. What could I expect almost 70 and a cripple? Gladly would I have gone with him and had the pleasure of once more seeing dear Lady Dick but alas! the Limbs that whilome carried me to Prestonfield will now hardly convey me into my own garden and have not let me have a moments ease since February was twelve months. I should have had still more reluctance in parting with Lord Abercorn but that I knew he was going where he had at least one neighbour that lov'd him and would receive him kindly and God be thanked he is sent back to me safe and sound. I heard from him how good a kirk woman you was grown and that you was bringing up my little pretty namesake in the way that she should go and how very well she behaved at kirk. I assure you I am very proud of having such a name sake tho' I could not help wishing for a Bairn that might require another sort of name; but I comfort myself with a



saying we have here that where a Girl lay a Boy may, in the mean time it is very pretty to have two such fine girls, for I would not have you think that I am forgetfull of Miss Dick. Lord Abercorn tells me she is much improv'd and plays charmingly upon the Harpsichord and I doubt not under your direction will do everything to perfection. . . . I have the pleasure to hear your health in general is much better than when I was at Duddingston for you may believe I have made very particular enquiries after you and yours. I heard you had fine folk in your neighbourhood last summer and shall be very much pleased to have your opinion of them but make my bargain beforehand that you shall flatter me you do not love them so well as me tho' I own it is unreasonable for as I said before I can pretend no merit but my sincerity, w<sup>th</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> I am

My dear Lady Dick's

Much oblig'd and faithfull humble ser<sup>vt</sup>

A. ABERCORN.

My compliments attend Sir Alexander and both the young ladies and Lord Abercorn desires you will all accept of his. My poor shaking hands have not scribbl'd so much stuff time out of mind. I am sure you are tired with it but I must add my desire to be remembered to Mr Bennet who I know you see often.

About this time Sir Alexander paid a visit to London, to push through Parliament a Bill to lighten the Law of Entail, which had hitherto proved a heavy tax on Scottish landowners. In this he was successful, to the great benefit of subsequent generations. His principal business lay with Lord Mansfield and the Duke of Argyll; and from the former he received these two lines by his friend Mr Pope, "to affix as the motto to a Pamphlet to be written for the Information and Instruction of all concerned."

"The Laws of God as well as of the Land,  
Abhor a Perpetuity should stand."

Sir Alexander writes in his book of memoranda :

"Before I left London I waited upon my old Friend Earl Marchmont who introduced me to old Chancellor Hardwicke. I afterwards waited on

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Lord Lyttleton and was invited to his Country House near Birmingham where I went. I happened to dine one day when in London with Mr Home the Counsellor Lord Marchmont's Twin Brother both my acquaintances in Holland, there were six principal Admirals at table amongst the rest the celebrated Rodney who was the youngest at that day.

While I was at L<sup>d</sup> Lyttleton's in Warwickshire (as he was not as yet come down) he had given orders to Admiral Smith a natural son of the Family who had lived adjoining to and had command of his House, to receive and entertain me which he did in a most hospitable and obliging chearful manner, he was well known among the sailors by the name of Tom of Ten thousand. I had an opportunity on that occasion to be introduced to the celebrated Poet Mr Shenston at his remarkable adorned Farm at the Leasones where he walked me round the whole and was most obliging in showing me the good taste that prevailed everywhere."

No man of learning or of letters passed through Edinburgh without visiting Sir Alexander, and shortly after his return from town, he received the following letter from the celebrated Benjamin Franklin.<sup>1</sup>

"Dr Franklin and his son present their respectful compliments to Sir Alex. Dick and shall attend him to Prestonfield tomorrow with great Pleasure. They are extremely obliged to Sir Alex. for his kind invitation to spend some Days at his seat in the country, but doubt the short stay they must make in these Parts will not allow them that advantage."

"MILNE SQUARE. Friday morning."

That he did find time to stay, however, is evident from the following lines, "wrote at Coldstream on his return to England."

"Joys of Prestonfield adieu,  
Late found soon lost, but still will view  
The engaging scene—Oft to those eyes  
Shall the pleasing vission rise,<sup>4</sup>  
Hearts to warm towards a friend,  
Kindness on kindness without end

<sup>1</sup> Dr Benjamin Franklin, born at Boston, 1706, was of humble origin, and began life as a printer. He was a distinguished philosopher and an able writer, and rendered great service to his country as a clear sighted and incorruptible statesman. He died in 1790.



PRESTONFIELD HOUSE,  
*from a Photograph by Mr. Alex. J. Inglis.*





Easy converse Sprightly wit  
 These we found in Dame and Knight  
 Cheerful meals and balmy rest  
 Beds that never Bugs mollest  
 Neatness and sweetness all around  
 These at Prestonfield we found  
 Hear O Heaven the Stranger's Prayer  
 Bless the hospitable pair  
 Bless their sweet bairns and very soon  
 Grant these a Brother those a son."

But Franklin had a rival in verse-making who did not wish to be outdone in Lady Dick's estimation, one Mr Robert Alexander, who addresses her thus :

"What Franklin writes appears so fine  
 I wish his thoughts and words were mine,  
 Why then so cruel couldst thou be  
 As send his sprightly lines to me.

Alas I'm of such jealous mettle  
 That ever since I ne'er could settle,  
 Whate'er he feels he can express  
 I silent stand but feel no less.

Our prayers and sentiments the same,  
 I love the Knight adore the Dame,  
 Unlike alone in this our vow  
 He prays for one Son, I for two.

But see what all he pleased to say,  
 Thy beauty could not make him stay,  
 A lover gone you'll understand  
 Is not so good as one at hand."

In the same handwriting at the foot of the paper are these words :

"Cultivated ground has few needs, a mind occupied by lawful business has little room for useless regrets."



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Dr Franklin invented an urn, the lamp of which was to burn with an inverted light, upon which he wrote this Inscription :

“ Like a Newton sublimely he-soared  
To a summit before unattained,  
New regions of Science explored  
And the palm of philosophy gained.  
With a spark that he caught from the skies  
He display'd an unparalleld wonder,  
And we saw with delight and surprise  
That his rod could protect us from thunder.  
Oh had he been wise to pursue his talents disguis'd  
What a tribute of praise had been due  
To the teacher and friend of Mankind,  
But to covet political fame  
Was in him a degrading ambition,  
A spark which from Lucifer came  
And kindl'd the blaze of sedition.  
Let candour then write on his Urn  
Here lies the renowned Inventor,  
Whose flame to the skies ought to burn  
But inverted returns to the Center.”

Lastly there is an Epitaph on Doctor Franklin by himself :

“ The Body of  
Benjamin Franklin, Printer  
(Like the cover of an old book  
Its contents worn out  
And stript of its lettering and gilding)  
Lies here, food for Worms ;  
Yet the work itself shall not be lost  
For it will (as he believes) appear once more  
In a new  
And more beautifull edition  
Corrected and amended  
by  
The Author.”

## Mr Strange obtains a Free Pardon 183

Mention has been made in a former chapter of Mr Strange<sup>1</sup> the engraver, who narrowly escaped capture after Culloden and fled abroad. After residing many years in France and Italy, where he practised his art with success, he obtained a free pardon and returned to London. His wife kept up a constant correspondence with Sir Alexander, to whom she writes :

"My Lord is in Naples, at present has an apartment in the King's Palace and liberty to take down what pictures he pleases."

Again,

"Mr Strange was very happy in your approbation of his last performance.

What my dear Lady Dick said upon the Laurels, etc. was cheerful, lively and smart, the Lord restore her to her health, she is a most bewitching companion."

Again

"Before answering your kind favours of the 30th I'll here wish you all the joy a fond Parent can wish for, and may you long enjoy that very allowable and natural joy. I hope this shall find both the Good Lady in the Straw and Boy in the Blanket in a fair way of getting health and strength."

Another of a later date is expressed after the fashion of the day in rather forcible language, the good lady's ire having been raised over Mrs Hogarth's<sup>2</sup> (the eminent painter's wife) want of appreciation of art in its true sense.

"After calling and expostulating with Mrs Hogarth's agent, she being in the country. I find they have no taste for what in the like case my lord would give twenty times more than I ask'd. *Damn them!* they do not deserve to know Honour's who have no thirst for anything but money, the paper was never out of my Hand. Another time it may be proper to

<sup>1</sup> Robert Strange, an Edinburgh engraver, born 1721, died 1772. He received the honour of Knighthood, and was appointed engraver to H.M. George III. He was particularly eminent as an Historical engraver.

<sup>2</sup> Hogarth, the celebrated painter, married a daughter of Sir James Thornhill without his consent, but was taken into favour on the completion of his series of pictures of the Rake's Progress, which were engraved by Strange.

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Honour Hogarth when like Canonizing a Saint all His wild low acquaintances are dead and Burry'd.

Besides his frequent letters to his numerous acquaintances and friends, Sir Alexander kept up a lively correspondence with his brother Sir John Cunyngham of Caprington, the following letter from Sir John on some allusions in one of these epistles is marked as a "Very nice piece of Criticism."

"DEAR BROTHER,

Your quotation from Celsus, '*Cavendum ne in secunda valetudine adversa præsidia consumantur*' is so just a sentiment and so elegantly expressed that it made me think of Dryden's description of wit, which he places in the justice of the thought and purity of expression. But as Celsus's maxim neither is nor was intended for wit, it shews the futility of his definition. Mr Addison, who now and then debas'd a great Genius by affecting that silly modern Gothic thing we call wit, censures Dryden, and adds something of novelty, and surprise to the thought to make it witty; as if a Lover should tell his mistress 'her bosom was white as snow' it did not become wit, till he should add that it was as cold too. What a poor sorry play of the fancy is this, and how would it be relished by Menander, Terence or Petronius.

All the best Period since the revival of Letters we have been far from being imbibed with the simplicity and elegance of their manner in that exercise of genius which we seem to think of when we speak of wit. The puerilities of Ovid seem to have been more acceptable to Northern Complexions and more relish'd than the Elegance of Athens. You have heard me often say, that I thought real wit consisted in a pure naive and quaint expression of Truth, such as that of Quartilla to her old Lover; '*Languori tuo gratias ago, nam in umbra voluptatis diutius haesimus.*'

It has been observed of our modern wit that it will not bear a Translation of real wit; I think the very contrary.

Because what is just and true, is so at all times, will fall in with the genius of all languages and hit all tasks. To apply this observation should Quartilla say '*Non sincesiami la Debolezza dell mio Signore perche attaccamoci piu lungo nelle ombre della piacere.*'"

The words express a sentiment common to her sex eternally certain and equally poignant in Italian or Latin. Let us now take Addison's

bosom, and make an Italian amorato say to his mistress—" *Le poppe della mia Donna son non men bianche, ma piu fredde della neve.*"

Tho' the Clinch is rather better in the Translation yet is not the Sentiment despicable, flat, absurd, the very assemblage of *toutes les glaces du nord*. I know nobody has excelled so much in that silly way as Petrarch, who has contrasted his Laura with every thing he could think of, and has been much laugh'd at for his pains.

Some time ago I hop'd for the improvement in our Taste and that our Hyperborean roughness might receive something of a polish, but our late productions disappoint my hopes and make me despair of seeing anything of real excellence in my Times. It is, however, some pleasure to think that the Idea, tho' perhaps not as yet the execution of a perfect Work, is at present to be found with us rather than anywhere else in Europe. I like the late effect of bringing a Chorus into the Drama, the author has followed the Simplicity, but could not attain the sublime of his model. In all respects the Play surpasses the Ophelia and others that have of late made a fracas.

All this reverie is owing to the essor from Celsus, which has made me galop a *plume volante*, nor should I have done if good manners did not recall me. All I have now to tell you is that we are still in perfect health and that Lady Betty, I, and the bairns join me in kindest compliments to Lady Dick, Lady Dunipace, Miss Jessy, Mr Keith, and to you.

I am ever dear brother yours, etc., etc., JOHN CUNINGHAME.

Look y<sup>r</sup> Celcus if it is not *subsedia* which *consumantur* rather calls for than *praesidia*.

The correspondence now takes a more intimate turn, in the form of a letter from a little lady of eleven years old, Sir Alexander's eldest daughter,<sup>1</sup> who fully appreciated the importance of being left in charge, during his absence from home, as is evident from the pride with which she assures her dear Papa that his house book is in great order. And although she begs him to excuse her "writing so horridly," the penmanship is an excellent small hand. The ball to which she alludes was given, by Mr Lamoli who, we may presume, was the dancing master, and the description of her green gown and of her being somewhat incommoded by her train

<sup>1</sup> Janet, born 1749.



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is delicious. Her partner, Lord Balgonie, eldest son of the Earl of Leven and Melville, was of her own age.

Although the letter is signed Janet Dick, she is better known throughout the correspondence by her pet name, Jessie, by which she was invariably called, except upon one occasion, when her volatile cousin, Lady Elizabeth Lindsay, addresses her as "beautiful Jannet." Though the recipient of many letters, this is the only one preserved written by her.

"Prestonfield, March 20, 1760.

MY DEAR PAPA,

I wish I could tell you from my heart what I am sure you would wish which is Mamma's good health, which is at Present very bad but for Particulars I refer you to Dr Rutherford who is to write to you Directly for your Advice. We all thank you for the New Play, whenever mamma is able to hear me I shall read it to her, to be sure its fit I should, since My Dear Parent recommended it to my Perusal. Your health which at Present mamma is suspicious of makes us all anxious to hear about you. Sir I do assure you your housebook is in great order and not an article escaped since you Left us, &c. I receive my annuity<sup>1</sup> every Saturday night but would rather have my dear Papa to see it and be satisfied with it than to possess all the riches on earth. I am very Proud when I can do anything to oblige you. My Dr sister Anne<sup>2</sup> is the Loveliest Baby ever was born.

I must not forget to tell you Mamma let me go to Mr Lamoli's ball.

She was not able to go with me but gave me in charge to Lady M'Leod who took all good care of me. I was not the least the worse of it. I danced with Lord Balgonie and they say I danced very well. I was dressed in my green gown with gold trimmings and nothing about me but what you would have Liked except my train which was a little troublesome and if you don't like it when you come home I shall sacrifice it. Cousin Peggy writes to you otherwise mine should be longer. Dr Papa I am your affectionate and obedient Daughter

JANET DICK.

P.S.—I am hurried with the post pardon my writing so horridly."

<sup>1</sup> An annuity of £100 was paid by the Government to Sir Alexander's two eldest daughters, on account of some money lent by their grandfather, on their mother's side, Sir Andrew Dick of Craighouse.

<sup>2</sup> Anne, the baby alluded to, born 1759. She was described as a very plain *old* lady. She died in 1847.



## Chapter XII.

Mary Queen of Scots—Mr Campbell of Cawdor's letters—Sir Alexander's  
Version — Dame Mary Butler — Congratulatory letters — Allan  
Ramsay's appointment.

[1760-1762.]



## Chapter XII.

A PROLONGED correspondence was entered into between Sir Alexander, Mr Campbell of Cawdor,<sup>1</sup> and Mr Hume the historian, on the subject of Mary Queen of Scots, and whether or no she was guilty of the Earl of Darnley's death; a question interesting at all times, but particularly so now, when the solution of the matter, were she to be proved innocent, would be the means of canonizing this unfortunate lady.

That this solution can be found so long after the event is most improbable, unless sufficient evidence lies buried in the mass of letters, from the Scottish Queen and others, which are preserved in the Vatican, but to which access is unobtainable. Mr Campbell writes :—

Stackpole Court, Sept 26 1760

“DEAR SIR

I hoped you had seen an end of my impertinent criticisms. But I must set right a great mistake I find I fell into in my last Pacquet having writ it in a hurry, trusting to a frail memory and a hasty look upon the Inquiry.

I have since looked into Huberts second confession. I find he do's speak of carrying a letter of the Queen's from Glasgow to Bothwell and returning with his answer.

I had imagined that, the letter being shewn to Hubert he could, if they were genuine, have proved they were the same he carried. But I now

<sup>1</sup> John Campbell of Cawdor Castle and Stackpole Court, born 1695, died 1777, a Lord of the Admiralty and Treasury, M.P. for Nairnshire, from whom the Earls of Cawdor are descended.

Mr Campbell made Mr Hume's acquaintance by means of Sir Alexander Dick, through whose hands the correspondence between them passed.

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find the letter had no address, so the covers must have been lost, or destroyed, which seems odd, for if Bothwell kept these letters for his own security, and one may be sure it was for no other reason, he ought to have been very careful to preserve the covers address'd to him.

The Inquirer might perhaps say, that if covers had been produced, they must have had some seal of the Queens, which might not be so easy to procure or counterfeit. I still think that as soon as Hubert was taken, he ought to have been publickly and very particularly examined as to the letter or letters he carried between the Queen and Bothwell. And I cannot avoid supposing that his being carried to St Andrews and kept so long there, was either to procure some false evidence, or as I rather think to smother some Truth that might have bore hard upon Morton and Lethington, at least I think most writers have been too apt to think that the Queen's guilt infer'd Moray's Innocence et vice versa.

In my opinion the Conclusion is by no means either way. It has I believe often happened that different Persons, have been in the same Conspiracy unknown to each other.

Morton and Lethington were at the head of those who took arms against the Queen soon after her marriage with Bothwell; in concert I doubt not with Moray, though, in outward appearance, without his knowledge. It is now I think agreed that Morton and Lethington were privy to the King's murder, yet wee have the plainest proof of the Queens protecting the Principal murderer, and the strongest presumption without the letters, of her being privy to the murder. Why then should the Queen's guilt infer the Innocence of Moray, more than of Morton and Lethington? My opinion of Moray is, that he acted according to the words said in Huntly and Argyll's Declaration to have been spoken by Lethington to the Queen at Craigmillar. "*He will luik throw his fingeris thairto and will behold our doings saying nothing to the samen.*"

I beg you to look into the 3d page of Dr Robertsons Dissertation, and consider whether he has sufficiently answered the case against Moray, as stated by himself. Add to that state, an allowance that the Queen had for some time before the king's murder, had the strongest passion for Bothwell, and consequently must wish her husband out of the way. Where then will be the impossibility?

I am satisfied Dr Robertson did not intend the least partiality. If he has fallen into anything a little like it, Let nobody presume to censure him, but those who have enter'd into the discussion of that affair, and

shewn greater impartiality. The Dr will then I am sure be safe from any censure, but his own—

I beg pardon for having troubled you with my Blunders.

I often think of your agreeable situation, where you enjoy all the pleasure of the country, and are yet within reach of the most agreeable and most learned conversation, and can command the use of all the Books, that either good Library's or Shops can furnish. I am with best wishes to yourself Lady Dick and family Dear Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> most obedient and oblig'd humble Ser<sup>vt</sup>

J. CAMPBELL.

SIR A<sup>r</sup>. DICK.

Apropos of this correspondence the following letter may be quoted, written by Queen Mary to the Earl of Huntly after the said Declaration. It is taken from the original Caligula MSS. C i. folio 285 in British Museum.<sup>1</sup>

"Richt traist counsigne and counsalo<sup>r</sup> we greit zou weill. We haif ressavit zour letter be the berar herof daitit the 3 of this last moneth, and hes considerit the samen. No<sup>t</sup>w<sup>h</sup>standing that we haif writene to zou laitlie anent the estait of o<sup>r</sup> affairis sa amplie as we war informit thairof yitt this pnt is to schaw zou that my lord boyd, o<sup>r</sup> traist counsigne and counsallo<sup>r</sup> (quha arrivit heir from the court the xxvii the said moneth) hes declarit to us how o<sup>r</sup> rebellis hes done the most thai could to haif dishonerit us, q<sup>ek</sup> (thankis to God) this no<sup>t</sup> in thair power, bot be thair expectation found thameselffis disappoynted of that they lookit for. Thai procurir now to seik appoyntment bot, albeit we be not of sic nato<sup>r</sup> as thais that forgis never, no<sup>t</sup> the less we sal caus thame acknowlege thair foolishness, and the said Quene o<sup>r</sup> gud sister and hir counsell know their fals inventions and offensis, practisit agains us, to cullo<sup>r</sup> thair trahisouns and wicket usurpation. Swa that it shall be manifest to all the world quhat men thai ar to o<sup>r</sup> hono<sup>r</sup> and contentment of o<sup>r</sup> faytful subjectis. For (praysit be God) oure friendis incresis and thairis decresis daylie.

"Ze sal ressaif ane lettre be this beirar to be subscrivit be zow and o<sup>r</sup> counsigne the erle of Argyle q<sup>lk</sup> is maid be my Lord boydis adwyse conforme to the Declaration now maid to o<sup>r</sup> traist counsellor the bishop of Ross, hie knowing your deliberation and will thairintill. And albeit we

<sup>1</sup> See *Records of Aboyne*.



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knew there is na neid to use ony persuasion toward zou q<sup>r</sup>throw ze maye be drevin to that q<sup>r</sup>intill ze can haif nathing bot reputatioun and hono<sup>r</sup> and seeing it is for your just defence calominat be the unfay<sup>t</sup>fulness and trahisoun of o<sup>r</sup> rebellis, yitt we thocht gud to write unto zou this pnt. Praying you to schaw that the vertew qlk is in zou, and equitie of o<sup>r</sup> caus maye not induce o<sup>r</sup> adversares and zo<sup>rs</sup> to use sic braging (qlk be the fay<sup>t</sup>ful report of o<sup>r</sup> commissiouners and utheris that ar in the Court of Inglande) ze maye understand thai mak aganes us and zow twa amangis the rest of o<sup>r</sup> fay<sup>t</sup>ful subjectis. As to o<sup>r</sup> pairt we are resalut not to spair thame in setting the veritie to their leyis. And hoipis (w<sup>h</sup> the grace of God) and equitie of o<sup>r</sup> caus that all qlk thai haif allegit aganis us, shal fynd the samen to thair awin schame and confusioun. We refer to zour discretioun to eik and pair the said lre as z<sup>e</sup> sall think best and extendit in sic forme as ze sall think maist necessar. Praying zow to send us the samen agane subscreant and seillit the soonest ye maye, to the effect it maye be productit togidder w<sup>h</sup> the rest of the accusatiouns qlk we intend ta gif in aganis o<sup>r</sup> trators. Ze sal als ressaif ane copie of the Quene o<sup>r</sup> sesteris ans<sup>r</sup> to o<sup>r</sup> commissiouners proclamation qlk ze maye consider.

Mairator we haif understand that ze ar to change the provost of elgin qlk we wish and press zow not to do bot reteine him quha is in the samen office alreaddie sa lang as he remains faytful and constant to us, swa that ther be na other putt in place as ze will do us plesou<sup>r</sup> and report o<sup>r</sup> thankis thairanent. Referring the rest to the beirar, quha ye will credit, remittis zow to the protectioun of God almichtie. Off Bowtun the 6 of Januar 156(9).

Your richt gud cusigne and assured friend,

MARIA R.

In another letter Mr Campbell says :

"I must make one Reflection upon this period of our History. That as the Allmighty Power of God always can, his infinite Wisdom often most visibly do's, bring Good out of Evil. The Reformation has been in effect the greatest Blessing to every part of this Island. Yet the ruin of the papal power in England was occasioned by the lawless Passions of a brutal bloody Tyrant. And the Reformation was establish'd there by a Lady (Queen Bess) not greatly enriched either with Christian Graces or Moral Virtues.

"In Scotland it is manifest to every impartial eye that the Leaders of the Reform'd were not better men than their enemies the Papists I wish they were no worse."

This is the case as Sir Alexander puts it :

"In the year 1565 commenced the crowd of misfortunes which happened to our beautifull Queen Mary of Scotland, for in that year she was unfortunately marryd to her capricious wrong headed cousin Henry Stewart Earl of Darnley, who had the inhumanity, or rather barbarity in the subsequent year 1566 whilst she was innocently at supper with her friend the Countess of Argyle, who was her bastard sister, at her palace of Holyrood house, to cause her foreign secretary Rizzio to be murdered, who had fled to the Queen for protection, Henry allowing the dagger which he wore by his side to be pulled out by the Murderer for that purpose, the Earl of Morton and Lord Ruthven were present and had come with Henry to witness this horrid action, of which it was shrewdly suspected the Earl of Murray who had gone to England some days before, had secretly been the contriver. But as one bloody action or assassination in these times especially, are commonly but forerunners of the same kind, in the subsequent year 1567 Henry the King was himself blown up with gunpowder with some of his servants and thereby killed in the Kirk of field where he had gone to stay for his health. Mary by a *mere accident* during the night in which that happened was at her palace of Holyrood house, witnessing the marriage of one of her servants. The perpetrators of this wicked dreadful action were long concealed, but at length two persons were found guilty and executed for it, but from very many circumstances tryals and comparison of events, the Earl of Murray was suspected to be the secret contriver. The Earl of Morton to be in the foreknowledge of that murder of the King, and the Earl of Bothwell to have the greatest hand in the deed. Mr Stewart who has published the history of Queen Mary of Scotland has clearly proved the innocence of the Queen of that crime, yet he has at the same time evidently made it appear that tho' Murray and Morton and their associates were at the utmost pains to wash the Earl of Bothwell clear of the crime of regicide, yet knowing the very favourable opinion the Queen had of Bothwell they artfully contrived to get the Parliament to declare Bothwell perfectly innocent of the murder of the King, and secondly that in the present situation of affairs the Earl of Bothwell was

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the fittest person to be her husband, which she herself considered as a very imprudent step for her to take.

"She was carry'd by violence of a thousand men under Bothwell as she was coming to Edinburgh and violently lodgd in the Strong Castle of Dunbar, where he forced her to marry him, which when it serv'd the purpose of her enemy's they left her to be disgraced and to suffer all manner of indignities.

"It would be too tedious to enumerate on one side the treacheries and forgeries that were muster'd up against her by her subjects headed by Morton, Murray and Lethington, in which George Buchannan was an accomplice, and on the other hand, the cruel inhumane and severe politicks and unjust false dealings of Queen Elizabeth who detained her nineteen years a Prisoner, and afterwards in the year 1587 brought her to a general tryal condemnation and execution, being beheaded by Elizabeth's sign manual at Fotheringay Castle in the heart of England in the 46th year of her age to the astonishment of all Europe and the real and sincere grief of all her good subjects."

The Earl of Murray, Elizabeth's bastard brother, afterwards made Prior of St Andrew's, was, he says

"not only eminent in the camp and cabinet but had the dexterity to be under Elizabeth the mainspring which secretly produced several great events which happened subsequently, his public appearance in these however he never allowed to be manifested.

"The author of Earl Murray's assassination was said to be one Hamilton, who shot the Earl from a window as he was passing along the streets of Linlithgow, and in this way avenged the death of his wife whom the Earl while Regent had turned naked out of the house of Woodhouselee in a cold snowy winter night, she being then with child. Mr Hamilton made good his escape to France."

Of the reformers of the day no measured terms are used—

"particularly that boisterous rude reformer John Knox.

Knox used the beautiful young Queen and all her subjects of France, when he got into the pulpit without any ceremony in the coarsest language also inciting the populace to destroy the beautiful and magnificent fabrics of churches, chapels, convents and monasteries which subsisted all over Scotland in former times."

Which advice, as we have already seen, was taken advantage of to the full by the Earl of Glencairn.

Bothwell, as is known, had been previously married to the Earl of Huntly's sister, Lady Jean Gordon, who instituted proceedings of divorce on account of his behaviour to her and his intimacy with Janet Betoun, wife of Walter Scot of Buccleugh. Bothwell on his side entered a process for divorce founded on relationship within the forbidden degree. To assist matters Lady Bothwell suppressed a dispensation of 17th Febr. 1566, being desirous to be rid of as. "naughty a man as liveth and much given to the most detestable vices." <sup>1</sup>

Queen Mary, Huntly, Lethington, and Melville were intercepted by Bothwell on 24th April when returning from Stirling, and brought by force to Dunbar Castle. An ineffectual attempt at rescue was made by the citizens of Edinburgh, and in Mary's own pathetic words "She never saw any hope of being rid of him, never man in Scotland making any mean to procure our deliverance." <sup>2</sup>

That the Queen bore palpable evidence of the terrible strain she had undergone is proved by the people's remark at her marriage, that she was "the most changed woman of face that in so little time without extremity of sickness, they had seen." <sup>3</sup>

In connection with Queen Mary's marriage to Bothwell, and the question whether she was privy to the ravishment, it should be noted that Bothwell had boasted that he would marry the Queen "whether she would herself or not." There is also an admission from Morton, that, "sindrie of the nobilitie and I also subscrivit a band with the Earl of Bothwell" for the Queen's marriage. Maitland of Lethington, who was in direct opposition

<sup>1</sup> Records of Aboyne.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.



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to the marriage, was with the Queen when she was taken by Bothwell, on "St Marks Even" at the Almond Bridge. The animosity between Bothwell and Lethington is well known; is it therefore likely that Mary was taken, and Lethington her most trusted adviser, of her own free will?

Mr Campbell quotes the before-mentioned remark in his letter referring to the celebrated casket letters, "He will luik throw his fingers thairto" &c., but he omits to give the Queen's reply, "I will do nathing whereby any spot may be laid to my honour or conscience, and therefore I pray you rather let the matter be in the state it is, abiding tell God in his goodness provide a remedy Thinking to do me service, the end may not be conformable to your desires, on the contrary, it may turn to my hurt and displeasure."<sup>1</sup>

To which Lethington made answer, "Madame let us guide the matter among us, and your Grace shall see nothing but what is good and lawful and approved by Parliament."

When Elizabeth proposed a Commission to Mary after the battle of Langside, Mary's instructions to her Commissioners contained the following remarks.

"In case they allege they have any writings of mine which may infer presumptions against me, ye shall desire that the principals be produced and that I myself have inspection thereof, and make answer thereto; for ye shall affirm in my name I never wrote anything concerning that matter to any creature, and if any such writings there be, they are false and feigned, forged and invented by themselves to my dishonour and slander, and there are persons in Scotland, both men and women, who can counterfeit my handwriting, and write the like manner of write which I use, as well as myself and principally such as are in company with themselves."

<sup>1</sup> Keith, vol. iii.



## Sir Alexander's Second Marriage 197

This fascinating subject must not, however, carry us away from the topic on hand.

It was about this date that Sir Alexander had the misfortune to lose his charming wife and delightful companion, and after a short interval, with his young family on his hands, he seems to have felt the necessity of finding a lady who would become a real mother to them. His choice fell on Dame Mary Butler.

As on the previous occasion, he kept his own counsel, married the lady first, and told his friends afterwards. This transpires in the following letter, received by him from his brother, Sir John Cunyngham :—

“DEAR BROTHER,

March, 1762.

I this day was favour'd with yours bearing the accounts of your marriage with Mrs Butler which I confess surprised me as I had no previous intimation of your design. But as you seem to have had the care of yourself and your children chiefly in your eyes your friends must approve of every measure you may think tending to secure your Domestick Happiness.

In general people of your experience and time of life are undoubtedly best judges of what is most proper for them to look for in the married state and as I have no doubt you have had that fully in view before you took your Resolution it is Reasonable to fall in with the sentiments of one who can think so well for Himself. Lady Betty joins me in wishing you every joy on this change in your condition and in offering best Compliments to you and your Spouse.

Thank God we are all well at present and send our Joint Compliments to all your Family. I continue Dear Brother affectionately yours,

Capringtoun.

JOHN CUNINGHAME.

Allan Ramsay writes on the same subject, offering his congratulations :—

DEAR SIR ALEXANDER,

April 22d, 1762.

It is many years that I have been in the use of rejoicing at everything which gives you pleasure and most heartily congratulate you on the satisfaction you express, and no doubt feel in this your second

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embarkation. May your voyage be as prosperous as your hopes, not without rational foundation, suggest. A man of sense in all enterprises considers chiefly how to provide himself with the needfull, careless of the rest ; and what can one at our time of life desire more than to make out the rest of his journey without trouble or vexation. For this purpose a wife with sound sense, a compliant temper, and a sober education is worth forty insolent Lady Carolines, fourscore capricious wits, and a hundred and sixty coquettish Beauties.

Had I time I would have written you a long letter ; but being much hurried I chose rather to send you this abridgement, than to defer my congratulations, which I beg you may convey for me to Lady Dick and Miss Jessy.

Who am ever, etc.,

ALLAN RAMSAY.

From the same to the same.

“DEAR SIR ALEXANDER,

It gives me great pleasure to hear from you, and to have the tidings of your welfare conveyed to me by so fair a hand. I hope however the cause of this peculiar compliment is removed and that you have recovered your eyes so far at least as to read, since I am afraid there will be nothing in my writing worthy a young Lady's perusal.

Whatever comes to your sight, I find your mind has not suffered any change, and that you have still that hearty desire that you always had to forward whatever was for the improvement of your country. And indeed by the means that have been already used, the people of this end of the Island are to confess the great superiority of their northern neighbours in almost every art they engage. Oratory seemed one of these in which they had the least chance to excell ; and yet even there, superior industry is likely to compensate for the natural disadvantages of language and pronunciation. You have sent out one Elliot ; why may you not send out a score ?

The setting up an Academy for Riding is an excellent design. A few more of such institutions will render Edinburgh the Athens of Britain ; where instead of the awkward and monkish pedantry of the old-fashioned Universities, young gentlemen will be initiated in the principles of usefull knowledge and at the same time exercised in all these liberal accomplishments which qualify a man to appear in the distinguished spheres of Life.

The new Library proposed to be established by the College of Physicians must be likewise a great advantage to the learned as well as to such as are desirous to become so ; and join'd to the Advocates Library, gives an advantage which this opulent City of London is hardly able to exhibit. Here is indeed the Museum, but the approaches to it are so encumbered with forms that a scholar will be little tempted to have recourse to it, except upon very particular and urgent occasions.

I thank you for your kind congratulations upon the place<sup>1</sup> that has been given me.

It has come to me, to use the words of a great man, altogether *unsolicited*, and I shall do all in my power to prevent it being said to be likewise *unmerited*.

I have lately reprinted two of my little essays, and have put the whole together with the general title of Investigator. My Dilogue on Taste has become remarkable by a large folio which it has given rise to by Peranese at Rome, and of which some copies are already come to London by land. By the first opportunity you shall have my Opera Omnia. With my kind service to Miss Dick, I remain ever, etc., etc.,

ALLAN RAMSAY.

London, Jan. 31 1762.

<sup>1</sup> Court Painter.



## Chapter XIII.

The Royal College of Physicians—Letters from Distinguished Foreigners  
—The True Rhubarb—Award of Gold Medal—Mr Elliot's letter—  
Lord Pembroke's elopement—What Mrs Montagu says.

[1761-66]









SIR ALEXANDER DICK BART. 1703-1785

## Chapter XIII.

As President of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, Sir Alexander carried on an extensive correspondence with many celebrities abroad, amongst whom he makes mention of Monsieur de Senactt, first physician to the King of France, and Dr Mounsey,<sup>1</sup> the Emperor of Russia's Physician. These and various others, besides several of our own nobility who were curious in natural history, he had caused to be elected honorary members of that Society. Notable among these last were Archibald Duke of Argyll, the Duke of Buccleugh, and Lord Bute. It was owing to his endeavours that the Hall of the College was moved from the Cowgate to the New Town, and he was instrumental in getting a fine library added to the building, in which his picture hangs to this day. Through Dr Mounsey he succeeded in getting the seeds of the true Rhubarb from the back of the Chinese wall. These he sowed in his own garden, and in course of time discovered the right method of drying and curing it both for commerce and medicine, for which he was awarded the gold medal of the Society of Arts in London.<sup>2</sup> It was reckoned at that time that the introduction of this root would save £100,000 yearly to Great Britain.

The following letters show how much the compliment of

<sup>1</sup> Dr Mounsey or Monsey, born 1693, died 1788, physician, son of Rev. Robert Monsey, Rector of Bawdeswell, Norfolk, ultimately obtained appointment of Physician to Chelsea Hospital. He was a friend of Dr Johnson, Garrick, and Mrs Montagu, and a member of the famous Blue-Stocking Club. *Sketch of Life and Character of the Late Dr Monsey, London, 1789. Anon.*

<sup>2</sup> The Jacobite Sir William Stanhope, in 1757, presented the Pope with a gold box full of this Rhubarb.

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election to the Royal College was appreciated by his foreign *confrerès*.

This first letter is from Monsieur de Senactt.

MONSIEUR,

Il est sans doute flateur de voir son nom placé parmi des noms célèbres ; mais ce qui me flatte le plus dans mon association à votre college, c'est quelle m'ouvre un commerce de connoissances avec des hommes qui ont été si utile à l'humanité, qui ont allié la véritable philosophie à la médecine, qui ne reconnoissent d'autre bien entre les hommes que le genie le Sçavoie et la vertu ; j'avois depuis long-tems cette idée de vos confreres, c'est avec plaisir que je voyois la prédiction de Seneque accompli ; ce grand homme prévoyoit que la Source des Sciences sera un jour *in ultima thule*, vous êtes placé Monsieur dans cette source pour la diriger, votre lettre rempli de principes Philosophique me prouve combien vous êtes digne de présider dans votre illustre Societé, je vous prie bien de lui présenter les vifs sentiments que m'inspire la reconnaissance. J'ai honneur d'être avec la plus haute estinué

Monsieur Votre très humble  
Et très obeissant Serviteur

SENACTT.

14 Juin 1761.

The following is from Baron Van Swieten.

SIR,

I received your kind letters from Mr Hay, that Phÿsician did stay here for some time, I was very glad to have the honour and pleasure of his conversation as much as my business could allow. I have the greatest opinion of his skill in Phÿsick, and I was much delighted with his fine behaviour. Mr Huck did me please no less, every body did love him here, and I more as any body else.

Praÿ, dear Sir give my compliments to the Society and all his members. The reputation of Dr Mounsey is very well established here, and I doubt not, but he will be a great ornament to the society, and of no less utility for the publicq. Every body at Vienna did love and esteem your worthy brother in Law Mr Keith, some of his friends died in the time of his absence, those that live, speak every day with the greatest affection of his merit and candour.



*Cūm faciliūs alia lingūa literas enarrare mihi sit, bona cūm venia tūa alio sermone ūtar. Probe memini Egregii Cūninghame, quem nunc sūb nomine Dick salūto Præsidem inclŷtæ societatis, cūjūs membrum esse glorior. Nec exciderunt memoria Blair et Jouneau, quo explicante legi festivissimū vestorū Hudibras qu'em absque illo intelligere non posŷissem : optimus ille vixerat helluo librorum : dolūi autem acerrime, cum aūdiverim illūm periisse inaniacūm.*

*Samūs lætūs tranquillūs, medios inter labores senesco, et tūo memor vivam semper vale diū et me habe.*

*totūm tuum*

VAN SWIETEN.

Vindobona 6 Junŷ 1764.

M. Le Chevalier Alexandre Dick, President du college des medicens d' Edinbourg.

"Le Conte Carbricié renouvelle ses respects tres humbles au Chevalier Dick, lui foit savoir qu il est de retour de son voyage du Piemont septentrional, est qu'il aura l'hōneur de lui en rendre compte aujourd'hui à diner a Prestonfield, ou il espere que toute la belle et aimable famille jouit d'une santé parfaite et du Bonheur qu'elle merite. Il prie Mr le Chevalier de leur faire agréer ses respects. Il sera à Prestonfield maison à une heure et demi.

Mercredi au soir 13 Juillet 1765  
à Edinburgh.

The well-known Dr Morgan of Philadelphia, in a letter dated July 15, 1765, writes to Sir Alexander :—

"It gave me great pain to hear of your Indisposition and particular pleasure to hear of your Recovery before I left England.

About that time I did myself the honour of writing to you to signify my Desire of being admitted a Fellow of the College of Physicians at Edin. . . . Speaking of the Patronage medicine meets with there its Progress and Improvement I say it already rivals if not surpasses every other School of Physic now in Europe. Your name I have taken the liberty to mention amongst the first of those who are now known wherever Physic is cultivated and revered as the Parents and Guardians of the healing arts.

With most respectful compliments, etc., etc.,

JOHN MORGAN.

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In another letter of an earlier date, he says :—

“Yesterday I returned from Fontainbleau where I accompanied Sir William Forbes, Mr Powell and another gentleman in order to see the French Court the King keeps there at this time. I was much gratified with the romantic scenes of the Forest and a sight of the King with the French nobility, who were out a hunting. We also saw the Royal Family at the Grand Convent; and at  $\frac{e}{y}$  Chappel on a day when the King and Queen stood sponsors for a child at Baptism. The Court is yet in mourning  $\frac{ch}{w}$  somewhat lessens the brilliant appearance of it.

I made the tour of Holland in company with Mr Boswell Lord Auchinlecks son, whose spirited and agreeable conversation gave me more Pleasure than any other I met with in Holland.

Since I have been in Paris I have visited all the Royal Palaces and fine Gardens in the environs of the City and have been introduced to a company of Literati at a Gentleman's of Distinction  $\frac{ch}{w}$  has pleased me much.”

Again in another letter from Paris he says :—

“Medicine does not seem in great vogue here, nor is the Practice in the Hospitals comparable to that in Edinr. The Hotel Dieu seems to be rather a pest house than an Hospital. The Patients are crammed 3, 4 and sometimes 5 and 6 in a bed, that it is no wonder if a kind of gaol fever is for ever in that Hospital, where many more dye of the Hospital than get cured of their original diseases. Surgery seems in more repute, and the Academy of Surgery are at great pains to make Improvements and encourage their Profession.”

In a letter written from Rome he says :—

“By means of some of the members of the Royal Academy at Paris I have been made acquainted with some of the most celebrated Physicians in France and Italy. Amongst others Monsieur Bourgelas at Lyons, Mons. Jumber, Chancellor of Medicine at Montpelleir, son-in-law to M. de Senac. Dr Bassani at Rome, also the Pope's Physician. I am also from hence to have a letter to my namesake the celebrated Morganini at Padua as I have likewise to Mons. Voltaire. Indeed the nobility and English gentlemen in Italy have treated me with great politeness, so that by their means I have been presented to the Duke of York as well as to the Pope,” etc

Again, writing from London, "Novr.  $\frac{9}{10}$  10th, 1764 :—

"My introduction to Morganini at Padua was followed by the most familiar access . . . he treated me with a profusion of civilities, from the similarity of name called me his cousin—presented me with his publication 'de Sede et Causio Morberum.' . . . At Turin I was presented to His Majesty and royal family of Sardinia and made an agreeable stay there of some weeks.

At Paris I learnt that I had been a good while admitted correspondent member of the royal academy of Surgeons at Paris and took my seat in the Academy during the short time I continued there."

From Philadelphia, August 29, 1766, he writes :—

"I expected to have been able to send over to you by this opportunity some Dissertations now publishing here 'On the reciprocal advantages of a perpetual Union between Great Britain and her American Colonies.'

The subject proposed by our worthy friend Mr Sargant of London who gave a gold medal done by any member of the Philadelphia College  $\frac{ch}{w}$  prize I had the Honour to Carry."

To turn to something lighter, here is a letter signed "A. Elliot," full of amusing gossip and so remarkable in its spelling that it is well worth recording at length. In it is given an account of the State of Parliament, the Queen's Condition, and finally *the* event of the day, Lord Pembroke's elopement with Miss Kitty Hunter. There is also a letter from Mrs Scott written to her brother, dated April 10, 1762, referring to the report of the Queen affording promise of an heir, "but as she is no great favourite with the nation it does not seem to afford much joy."

The extract from Dr Doran on Lord Pembroke, which is appended, and the subsequent items give the sequel to the story :—

Mr Elliot's letter to Sir Alex. Dick.

SIR,—I had the favour of your letter longer agoe than shame facedness will allow me to mention; you may suppose it was the Changeable

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Situation of all Political affares made me so long silent on a subject I'm so perfittly acquainted with, as the same unsteadiness still subsists must for the presend Pass it over; to avode showing my ignorance in these matters, you must know I was highly diverted at your last, where with an air of gravity you desire I may let you know whats going on in the hous of Commons &c, but to tell you the truth and not to apear less in the secret than others, its my oppinion, it would Pussel Wiser heads then mine to tell you; perhaps they don't know themselves, were they oblige to give *Catigorical* answers; however they have sometimes had the adress to set us all in gog with what they were to say, but to the great mortification of the beholders, there was a power in that body to adjurn the house, when the Tea did not please them, one day the Ladys were obliged to walk home at three, not having ordered there Coach's till nine—the expedition however hath, or will sail in a few days but where its designed for, shall leave you to determine, we have several acquentence, but no near Conec-tions goes with it, which I'm not in the list sory for, believing it wors then Germane service, and that's a bold word.

I had a letter from our friend the Doctor lately he's very well after the recovery of a bad cold; he desire if you and I hath not dropt on another, that I might in my first letter, let you know he had wrot you two letters, in July or August last or about that time (I have at present forgot) he might have had time to come over this winter, and is the better satisfy'd he declined it as he might have been apointed a wors service. You'l know long ere now that your friend Ramsay is apointed Painter to the King, with £200 a year enx'd to it, he's just now making a Drawing of both King and Queen, the letter of whom now begins to be Qualmish and last Sunday was obliged to leave the Chapel, at which they say the King look'd pleased; not sory like othere loving housebands: Shall leave it to you, to account for this change in the dispossitions of so humane a King. I have nothing further to write you, but what set all the world in an amazmend; my Lord Pembrokes Elopement with Miss Hunter: *its all for love or the world well lost* with them in good earnest—its thought they are gone to Italy, he wrot a very droll letter to his Lady, after desining she might dispose of the servants as she pleased, and acquainting her with his resolution of never returning to this Kingdom; he observed she had no great reason to regrat his present proceeding considering the unhappy and uneasy life she had lived for so many years. I saw your old friend Little frazer tothere day who's very well: I must be done, has been twenty times



call'd away from this scrall which appears by the Blots &c, but to make the most of every thing, let these make an apologie for my silence and seeming neglect, at the same time shew my desire and readiness to be in the way of my Duty, my sister joins in compliments to you and Miss Dick ; and to little Tottle Ben as you call her

I am Sir your most humble ser<sup>vt</sup>

A. ELLIOT.

London March 2d 1762.

Dr Doran in his book entitled "A Lady of Last Century," quotes the following information on the elopement.

"Those who deal in the small wares of scandal will not want subjects. Miss Hunter, daughter to Orby Hunter, has lately furnished a copious Topic.

"She and Lord Pembroke in spite of winds, waves, and war, left this kingdom for one where they imagined they may love with less molestation—where they cannot see a wife weep nor hear a father rage. They set off in a storm better suited to travelling witches than flying lovers, but were so impeded by the weather, that a captain sent out a boat and took the lady prisoner ; but after he had set her on shore he found that as she was of age, it was difficult to assume any lawful authority over her ; and after having spent a night in tears and lamentations, she was restored to Lord Pembroke.

"His Lordship resigned his Commission and his place of Lord of the Bed-chamber, and wrote a letter to Lady Pembroke acknowledging her charms and virtues and his own baseness (an unnecessary thing since the latter she must have long known), but assuring her Miss Hunter was irresistible, that he never intended to return to England, and had taken care that £5000 should be paid her yearly."

The elopement of Miss Hunter (a Maid of Honour!) from



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Bath with the Earl of Pembroke formed one of the most delicious bits of scandal ever discussed in the Rooms, on the Parade, or in the Meadows.

The excitement attendant thereon was shared by the whole country, for Kitty Hunter was a well-known, and not at all suspected, beauty of the day. Her father, Orby Hunter, was at the time of the elopement a Lord of the Admiralty. The vessel that brought back the fugitives was a Privateer commanded by a friend of Mr Hunter's.

Kitty's father declined to receive her, and she accompanied Lord Pembroke abroad.

Lady Pembroke, *née* Lady Elizabeth Churchill, was a daughter of the Duke of Marlborough, and to her Lord Pembroke wrote from Italy politely remarking that though he had lived with her so many years he regretted to say he had never been able to love her so well as she deserved, so thought it best to leave her. Subsequently he had the assurance to invite Lady Pembroke to accompany them on the Continent! And she says Walpole, "who is all gentleness and tenderness, was with difficulty withheld from acting as mad a part from goodness as he had from guilt and folly."

A Peerage edited by the Rev. F. Barlow of Burton alludes to my Lord, who was then living, in the following manner: "His Lordship distinguished himself in the Annals of Gallantry with Miss H—— about ten years ago, and since that time with several other ladies of less note."

From another letter.

"Lord Pembroke after he got to Holland wrote to his lady to desire her to come to them, assuring her Miss Hunter would be assiduous in her endeavours to oblige her, and that they should form a very happy society if she would bring over her guitar, two servants who play on the French

## How Mrs Garrick made her Debut 211

Horn, and his dog Rover! This polite invitation she was exceedingly ready to comply with, but the Duke of Marlboro' had too much sense to permit it. His Lordship has since written that he will never be happy till he lives with her again! Absurd as all this is, it is certainly fact, and some add that he has advised Miss Hunter to turn Nun. To be sure he best knows how fit she is to take the Vows of Chastity."

In a fragment of a letter written in 1763 Mrs Montagu says: "Miss Hunter has come back in the character of a fair penitent. Her lover was soon tired of an engagement which had not the sanction of virtue and honour. Shame and a fatherless Babe she has brought back. I hope her miserable fate will deter adventurous Damsels from such experiments."<sup>1</sup>

Mrs Elizabeth Montagu, wife of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Edward Montagu, resided in Hill Street, Berkeley Square, where as "Queen of the Blues" she held her famous assemblies. There witty Mrs Thrale, Dr Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Hannah More, Fanny Burney, Mrs Siddons, Horace Walpole, Garrick and his wife, and a host of others held animated discourse.

About twenty-five years previously, Mrs Garrick, as Eva Violette, made her first appearance on the stage as a dancer, and the costume in which she made her debut was doubtless laughingly alluded to by the Blue Stockings.<sup>2</sup>

The Earl of Strafford has left a record of the fact in an unpublished letter (March 1746) in the Cathcart collection: "She

<sup>1</sup> Kitty Hunter's fate was far from being miserable. She married Captain Clarke, who became Field Marshal Sir Alured Clarke, and the once audacious maid of honour died in the odour of fashion in 1810.

<sup>2</sup> The Club so called had never any substantial existence, the title was a nickname merely, and arose from some courageous ladies substituting conversation for cards at their assemblies. The name originated from Mr Stillingfleet (a grandson of the Bishop's), who dressed in sombre hues and wore blue stockings. Of him Boswell says, "Such was the excellence of his conversation and his absence was felt so great a loss, that it used to be said, 'We can do nothing without the Blue Stockings,' and thus by degrees the title was established."

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surprised her audience at her first appearance on the stage ; for at her beginning to caper she showed a neat pair of black velvet breeches with rolled stockings ; but finding they were unusual in England, she changed them the next time for a pair of white drawers."

## Chapter XIV.

Mr Brodie of Lethan and Sir A. Gilmour's letters—Wilkes and Lord Byron — Mr Boswell's letters — Sir John Dick's letters — Sir John Douglas—Dr Butter of Derby—A merit woman's letter.

[1764-1767.]





## Chapter XIV.

To return again to the Family letters, Sir Alexander receives an invitation from Mr Brodie of Lethan to pay him a visit. In it the writer says :

I hope this will find Lady Dick and you and all your family in good health, have you thought still of a north country trip this summer. I shall be vastly glad to see you here, the roads are very good, there's nothing in the journey, a few Days will do it, you'll see Fort George the strongest Fort in Brittain, if you intend this trip which I wish you may, pray write me a week or so before you sett out that I may be at home, or perhaps meet you on the road, I assure you its very agreeable travelling just now in this country, we are remarkable for fair weather, etc.

Your most obedient and most Humble Servt.,

30th May 1764.

ALEX. BRODIE.

As regards news of the day, Sir A. Gilmour writes from London Jan<sup>ry</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1764.

"The report of the day is that Wilkes is not to make his appearance<sup>1</sup> . . . the whole conversation is at present engrossed by the Hereditary Prince's Marriage with Lady Augusta."

In another letter of Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 1765, he says

"There is no news public or private the Conversation turning mostly on the Tryal of that unfortunate Divil Lord Byron<sup>2</sup> which is fixed for the 16th when it is generally believed that he will be acquitted."

<sup>1</sup> John Wilkes, M.P. for Aylesbury, editor of the *North Briton*, made an attack on the King, charging him with having uttered a lie. He was arrested and sent to the Tower, but afterwards released, and eventually became Lord Mayor of London.

<sup>2</sup> The fifth Lord, born 1722, died 1798, quarrelled with his cousin Mr Chaworth (great grandson of Viscount Chaworth) at a club dinner of Nottinghamshire gentlemen, 26th July 1765, and killed him after a confused scuffle in a room to which they had retired. He was convicted of manslaughter, before the House of Lords, and though exempted from punishment by his privilege as a peer, became a marked man.—*State Trials*, xix. 1175. He lived in seclusion at Newstead Abbey, ill-treated his wife, was known as the "wicked Lord," encumbered his estates and made a sale of his property at Rochdale, the disputed legality of which led to a prolonged lawsuit.—*Dict. of National Biography*.

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A new correspondent now comes upon the *tapis*, in the person of James Boswell<sup>1</sup> of renown. When travelling in Italy he met, either at Pisa or Leghorn, a certain Mr John Dick who had been for many years His Majesty's Consul at the latter place; and upon instituting enquiries, found him to be the direct heir male of the unfortunate Sir William Dick of Braid, who, as has already been related, lent all his money to the government, and died a bankrupt in Westminster Gaol in consequence. This information he immediately communicated to his friend Sir Alexander Dick, who at once took all the necessary steps to prove his cousin's right. How this was brought about is explained by the following extract, taken from *The Edinburgh Advertiser*, dated Friday March 18 to Tuesday, March 18, 1768.

"On Monday se'enight John Dick Esq. his Britannick Majesty's Consul at Leghorn, was served heir to Sir William Dick of Braid, Baronet his great grandfather's father. It appeared that all the male descendants of Sir William Dick had failed except his youngest son Captain Lewis who settled in Northumberland and who was the grandfather of John Dick Esq. his only male descendent now in life. Upon which a respectable jury unanimously found his propinquity proved, and declared him to be now Sir John Dick Baronet. It is remarkable, that Sir William Dick of Braid lost his great and opulent estates in the service of the publick cause of the liberties of this country; in consideration of which, when it was supposed there was no heir male of the family, a new patent was granted to the second son of the heir female, which is now in the person of Sir Alexander Dick of Prestonfield Bart. The Lord Provost and Magistrates of this city, in consideration of Sir John Dick's services to his King and country; and that he is the representative of that illustrious citizen Sir William Dick, who was himself Lord Provost in 1638 and 1639, did Sir John Dick the honour of presenting him with the freedom of the city of Edinburgh, after the service an elegant dinner was given at Fortune's to a numerous com-

<sup>1</sup> James Boswell was born October 29, 1740, died May 1795. His father, a Judge, sat in the Scottish Court under the title of Lord Auchinleck, a title derived from his property. His mother, Miss Euphemia Erskine was connected with the noble house of Mar,

## Sir John Dick visits Edinburgh 217

pany consisting of the Gentlemen of the Jury and a good many more persons of distinction here, who all testified their sincere joy at the revival of an ancient and respectable family in the person of Sir John Dick Baronet."

To bring all this about, naturally entailed much correspondence, and as various items of general interest are alluded to in many of the letters, some extracts from those of Sir John Dick will assist the reader to a better understanding of the allusions made by Mr James Boswell in his letters to Sir Alexander.

In pursuance of his claim, Sir John Dick had come to England, and travelled on to Edinburgh, where he visited Sir Alexander at Prestonfield; but he returned to his post in Italy, and it was not until a few years afterwards that he took up residence in London where he was appointed Comptroller of Army accounts.

In a letter to Sir Alexander, dated 29th July 1767, he mentions being greatly flattered by Sir Alexander having named his son after him, and announces his intention of going to Edinburgh as soon as possible

"we shall then," he says, "have an opportunity of talking matters over."

From Mr Boswell to Sir Alexander Dick.

London, April 1766.

MY DEAR SIR

I have been in such a fever of spirits since my arrival in this great metropolis that I have not been able to write a line even to my fair *Hollondoise* or to my best friends. And even now I can only force myself to sit while I tell you that I had an admirable journey and that I found your excellent cousin and his Lady perfectly well. I thought we should have no difficulty or delay. But it seems my Lord Weymouth wants to have the Consul's succession notified by an official letter from the Lord Advocate, so I have written for it. I have just seen Mrs Strange but not yet Doctor Armstrong. I shall write to you soon meantime pray remember me in the best manner to all at Prestonfield and Believe me ever yours

JAMES BOSWELL.

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From the same to the same.

Edinburgh  
Saturday 15 August  
1767

MY DEAR SIR

I had last night a letter from our worthy Consul. He was to set out from Mr Anson's on Tuesday the 11th, was to stay two days at Durham, and as many at Newcastle. We may suppose him then at Durham by this time. He will there have found my letter informing him of my unlucky situation.

He is to proceed to Mr John Askew's at Palinskrine House near Berwick and there He is to wait for a letter from me. He desires to know the best Inn at Edinburgh.

I will recommend him Peter Ramsay's. But I will get him to notify the day of his arrival that you may be ready at Ramsay's to receive him, and bring him to this house that we may all embrace with joy, on the commencement of so valuable a friendship, I may say on the reunion of so near Relations brought together by a mutual friend. My dear Sir such scenes are infinitely above interested schemes. They are the best things that such men as Sir John Dick and you and I find in this world. I wish much to see you here to-day before I write to the Consul. But as that may not be the case, I beg you may give me any instructions you think necessary.

In the mean time please return me by the Bearer what you have of Corsica as I am going to send it to my Lord Hailes.

Ever yours with affection

JAMES BOSWELL.

From the same to the same.

Augt 21 1767

MY DEAR FRIEND

I this afternoon received a letter "*Consul Venit*, telling me He would be here to-morrow at noon. I was to have sent to you early to-morrow morning; but Behold the Consul is arrived. Being pressed for time, He has pushed on, and is now at Ramsay's. Being a good deal fatigued, He goes to bed immediately. I have wellcomed him by a few cordial lines and told him as soon after nine o'clock to-morrow morning as He pleases I shall be ready to receive him here, where He will



## The Image of the God of Physic 219

find the worthy Baronet. Therefore my most Excellent Knight let me beg of you to be here before nine. I insist that you come here first. My servant will go for the Consul, and I shall have the joy of bringing you together. We will drink chocolate which I have got from my charming Miss Blair, and feel ourselves friends as if we had been together for years. Then in the warmth of the noonday sun we will repair to your villa. In the meantime pray be kind enough to keep a constant fire in a snug room for the friend of Paoli<sup>1</sup> and prepare your good family to see a man *slowly recovering from a fever*. Let me have a line in answer. Adieu till we meet. Ever yours  
JAMES BOSWELL.

From the same to the same.

Edin : 2 Sept. 1767.

MY DEAR KNIGHT AND FRIEND,

I have received all your papers which I have already looked over in a cursory manner. What I desiderate, as we lawyers say, is some authentic documents either written or traditional, as to the period that either of the two Lewis's (Dick) went to England. You will please search your Hogshead<sup>2</sup> and if you find there what will make our friend a Baronet we will fill it to the brim with generous wine to drink his health. I shall peruse your papers at more leisure and we shall talk everything over fully together. In the meantime avoid saying anything as to the Consul's Pretensions. I send you a letter from him to me, with a card to you which will please you much as I am charged by the Consul to obtain your acceptance of his most elegant present. I insist on your doing so with the frankness of a friend who is perfectly sure that He is made heartily welcome to it. The image of the God of Physic will be a suitable Signet for the President of the Royal College. What is become of the Genealogy of Dick which I took the liberty to correct? Is this a copy of it? When we meet, I will talk to you of the manner in which the Consul must be mentioned. I congratulate you on the nuptials in view. Dr Walker's letter is substantial like the fences of which He writes, but like them to want neatness. What think you of his "Congeries of Trumpery"? Adieu, dear Sir Alexander

Ever yours, JAMES BOSWELL.

I have this morning received a Corsican *Proof*. The Press *Sudat* Bravo.

<sup>1</sup> A Corsican General.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Alexander preserved his large correspondence in a barrel, or Hogshead, in his library, into which everything of interest was dropped.



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From Consul John Dick to Sir Alexander.

Park Lane, Piccadilly,

26 January 1768.

A thousand thanks wait on you my dear Sir Alexander for the very kind and obliging Letter which you did me the Honour to write to me the 6 past, which should not have lain so long unanswered had I not been under the greatest anxiety and concern on account of Mrs Dick's illness, she was seized with a very bad fever (owing to her having drunk the Bath waters, while in perfect health) which confined her to her bed for a month. . . .

I hope the Business which you mentioned will call both you and our friend Mr Boswell up to London, altho' I shall lament the situation which I am in here, which will not enable me to make you suitable returns for your Hospitality but if I resolve to remain in England, I shall then hope to have it more in my power to show you how sensible I am of your kind reception at Prestonfield.

You are very good in taking so much pains about my affair, and I heartily thank you for it. Our friend Mr Boswell has not failed to give me an account of how very obliging you have been.

25th March 1768.

. . . Mr Boswell has delivered me all the Papers—as also the Copy of good Sir Wm. Dick's Picture which you was so good as to send me, on which I sett the highest value consequently many thanks are due to you likewise on this account. . . . Our friend Mr Boswell sets out to-morrow morning for Oxford to meet his friend Mr Johnson; but will be back in a few days.

All the World is mad hereabouts on account of Elections. I hope you have no such doings in your part.

Mr Boswell to Sir Alexander Dick.

London, 18th April 1768.

MY DEAR SIR,

Here have I been for above three weeks in supine negligence with regard to you and that without any apprehension of blame. I have trusted to your uncommon goodness, and to your perfect knowledge of my character, so that I have quieted myself by considering that you would make all allowance for me, as I am sure you have done.

Notwithstanding of all my wise resolutions, I must confess that since I

last came to London, I have been if possible more extravagantly fond of the Ladies than ever. . . .

On my arrival in London, I put up at the Star and Garter in Bond Street and who do you think happened to be in that very house at a club, but our excellent friend the Consul. I went to him. He immediately came to me. We embraced, and I told him in a hurry all the principal circumstances of what had been done in Scotland. In the evening I waited upon him to supper and was rejoiced at seeing again *La Signora Consolessa* of whom you have heard so much, and have formed a very just idea.

I was a great man, for I came laden with valuable things. I produced the *Retour* which I read in English with an audible voice. I then displayed the magnificent Burgess Tickets which was very much admired, and I give you my word that my heart beat with real gladness as I read it also aloud.

I next displayed the portrait of the venerable Sir William, and then the worthy Baronet's letter made the *Bonne Bouche*. You may figure me quite at home, and in high spirits investing your cousins with their titles! Sir John Dick my service to you, Lady Dick I have the honour to drink your Ladyships good health.

So it went and I know not when I was happier. . . .

What do you think of My Lady Dick's bounty to me? She has this morning made me a present of the most elegant sword I ever saw, Steel richly carved and embossed and gilt; in short quite the princely sword for the Laird of Auchinleck. It will delight you to see it when we meet. I will come and strut at Prestonfield while Miss Dick plays Carrickfergus.

Pray tell her that when I heard the song *Quel che d'Amore*, &c., at the opera, it made me think myself quite at home again. Let me know what musick she wants that I may bring it down. I insist upon this; as it is laying up entertainment for myself on those Saturdays which I relish so much after a weeks drudgery at the law. She has *La Buona Figliola* But has she *La Buona Figliola Mantata*? I am sure she has not *La Moglia Fredele*. I beg she may tell me freely what she wants.

I have been twice at Mrs Strange's and most kindly received. By strange inattention I neglected to deliver your letter to Dr Armstrong. I sent it to him yesterday and told him the truth. He was with me this forenoon. I expected this, Sir, said I, you may figure how He and I your common friends at once loved each other.

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We talked much of you. He has his best compliments to you all. He has been very ill, so has not yet answered your letters; but will write to you very soon. In ten days or a fortnight, he and I will go and visit Mr Spence.

And now my worthy friend I have made up for my long silence. I shall be anxious to hear how Frachafields<sup>1</sup> Budget turns out. Poh! *non ce niente*. It will be (bite your nail like the Roman *Principes Scoppatore*) God bless you all.

Ever yours most affectionately

JAMES BOSWELL.

There is no doubt that Mr Boswell aspired to the hand of the handsome and fascinating Miss Jessie, but his attentions were not encouraged; her suitors indeed were many, but if they loved her, she loved herself still better.

Mr Boswell to Sir Alexander Dick.

London, 26 April 1768.

"As it is not long since I wrote you a very large letter I take up my pen this morning only to tell you that I approve of the History of Sir Wm. Dick's Family which you have drawn up for Sir Wm. Douglas' book. . . . I think now our worthy friend will be completely fixed in his dignity. He was presented to the King as Knight by that ancient Baron Lord Botecourt and both He and Lady Dick have kist hands and are universally acknowledged. I never rested until I had the brass plate on his door changed and ornamented with Sir John Dick. I must add that the letters from the Secretary of State's office the Consul at Leghorn are addressed to Sir John, etc.

I have not again seen the faces of Charles the Pretender or of his Irish Counsel (claimant for the Baronetcy). His propinquity must remain an occult Science. Your packet which came will founder him. A *spurious production of people* is admirable. Honest Charles must e'en remain as he is. We may say what is said of his predecessor Demetrius the Silversmith in the Acts of the Apostles chap 19, "Wherefore if Demetrius and the Craftsmen which are with him have a matter against any man, the law is open and there are deputies, let them implead one another." You may de-

<sup>1</sup> Frachafield was one of the claimants for the Dick of Braid baronetcy.

pend upon it we shall have no more trouble. . . . I am very ill but my spirits never forsake me. I have great hopes of being able to get something done for the brave Islanders,<sup>1</sup> etc., etc.

I give you my word I am sincerely yours,

J. B.

Over some parts of Bozzy's effusions a veil must be drawn, sad dog that he was : but putting aside his peccadillos, and looking at the letters for what they are worth in themselves, there is a breezy freshness and a lightness of heart that carry the reader along with him.

In spite of his swagger and bombast, there lay under all, such sincerity and goodness of heart, that he really was as he actually described himself "a very universal man." This is a more accurate view of his character, we venture to think, than that he was, as has been asserted, merely a servile hanger-on of great men. He possessed that enviable faculty of putting people at their ease, and never spared himself trouble to do any one a service, whether rich or poor.

One letter is facsimiled to show the style of his writing, which was bold and distinct, and his habit of underlining, which was very characteristic.

The nuptials alluded to in Boswell's letter to Sir Alexander of Sept. 2nd 1767, as having taken place at Prestonfield, were those of Sir Alexander's niece, Miss Douglas, to Dr Butter of Derby. This young lady was a daughter of Sir John Douglas of Kelhead, who married Sir Alexander's sister Christie, but she had died some years previously. To quote from Sir Alexander's memoranda.

"Sir John was the chief director of his friend the Duke of Queensbury's country affairs and parliamentary interest in the county of Dumfries, and with the Duke's approbation kept house at Drumlanrig, it was in that house that Sir John kept up the family interest of Queensbury.

<sup>1</sup> Corsicans.



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Sir John offered himself to represent the County in Parliament and was elected and returned accordingly<sup>1</sup> if I am not mistaken much about the time of the Civil War in 1745. Sir John had several brothers and sisters the accomodating and providing for whom till marriage or fixing in Business was attended with considerable expense insomuch that Sir John who was no economist and apt to take too much of his estate into his own hand in spite of my Sister's Best advice who had a good turn for Decent economy—he run aground and as he likewise had been nibbling to serve the Jacobite party by keeping several fleet horses and other unavoidable expenses, this added to the Distraction and Confusion of his affairs and being deemed by Government more culpable than he really was he was thrown into the Tower and examined before the privy Council at which examination he behaved like a hero—and disgraced none of his friends, however, two years in the tower and his family and country affairs being in disorder his friend the worthy Duke of Queensbury had great sympathy with him and got his estate put under trustees and he himself lent money upon the lands of Kilhead and had his creditors who were numerous and urgent thereby pacified."

Meanwhile, his daughters found a refuge with their warm-hearted uncle, who acted even more than a father's part towards them.

Dr Butter,<sup>2</sup> it appears, had set his affections on Miss Dick, but that young lady not reciprocating his feelings, Sir Alexander suggested he should transfer his attentions to his niece!

To this proposal Dr Butter replies in the same letter in which he dolefully acquiesces in Miss Dick's decision, saying :

<sup>1</sup> 1741.

<sup>2</sup> "Dr Butter was at this time a practising physician at Derby. He afterwards removed to London, where he died in his 79th year, March 22, 1805. He was the author of several medical tracts.—*Malone*.

"Having left Ashbourne in the evening, we stopped to change horses at Derby, and availed ourselves of a moment to enjoy the conversation of my countryman Dr Butter, then physician there. He was in great indignation because Lord Mountstuart's bill for a Scotch Militia had been lost. Dr Johnson was as violent against it. "I am glad," said he, "that Parliament has had the spirit to throw it out. You wanted to take advantage of the timidity of our scoundrels" (meaning, I suppose the ministry).

"We" (Dr Johnson and Mr Boswell), "dined with Dr Butter, whose lady is daughter of my cousin Sir John Douglas, whose grandson is now heir presumptive of the noble family of Queensberry."—*Boswell's Life of Johnson*.



"I beg you will accept of my best acknowledgements for making so good a choice for me and I depend on that assistance which you so generously offer me for obtaining the young Lady's consent. Allow me Sir to mention one thing that I could not help observing, that that Lady never seemed inclined to exchange so much as a word with me when at Prestonfield. But from what you have said that could not be any intentional neglect."

In Sept. 1767, matters had been happily arranged, as Dr Butter writes :

"Yesterday I was honored with your letter of the 3rd inst. with the most acceptable news that Sir John Douglas of Kelhead has given His consent to my having his Daughter Miss Katty in marriage."

Although from the tone of his first letter, Miss Dick's refusal seems to have gone very near his heart, the manner in which he accepts Sir Alexander's suggestion is eminently philosophic. Not being able to have the Rose he takes the nearest thing to it, and forthwith sets about preparing a house for the young lady, his next letter being full of his purchases.

"Mahogany Chairs to the Parlor with hair cloath buttons and those to the dining room to have slip cloth covers of Saxon blew and white with half inch bars, as being reckoned both fashionable and neat!"

The curtains he leaves for Miss Katty to select—

"for as my mind is intirely set on gratifying Her in Everything, whatever pleases her will be most acceptable to me."

A most praiseworthy sentiment, but the frugal lover took care to purchase his horsehair chairs first.

Miss Katty's letter to her Aunt Lady Dick after the event had taken place, to whom she writes as her "Dearest Mother," gives such a graphic description of the manners and customs of the day, that it is well worth recording. In it she says :

"The Doctor and I meakes a very good appearance in our hous he sits in on Earm Chear; and I in a nouthur, conversion most agrible in sens-

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cible conversation ; he is a most agrieble companion, and wee dou understand wan a nouthar as well, as if wee had been aquent for years ; he has every good quality that will meak a wouman hapy, I am affread for nothing but that he will be too indulgent, he shoes the greatest tendernis and attention to me, I cant help seing to you that I relie think from my heart, that I am the happiest settled of the tow sisters, but this youl kep to your self ; the Doctor seems to be vastly esteemed in this pleas ; we heav had the whol town visitin ous, on Sunday Last I had no less than six and Twinty Leadys and gentilmen, this you see was tou moutch for me to incounter with, but thank God it is all over ; I have been in Steat that is to see full Dress for this ten deays and have received all my visitors ; which I dar see has been above Egthy of Leadys and gentilmen in Town and Country, Leady Scarsdal and his lordship Ceam to see me ; thee seem to bee very agrieble ; I am to go and see her nixt week ; that is to see if my clous coumes, which I am surprisid is not arived yet ; I have been clously confined at hom yet and cant go abrod till the Baggage arrive, &c. &c.

Pray what is my friend Jess<sup>1</sup> doing I rely think that she might find as mutch time as writ, tell her as I am now a merit wouman I dou expect great *attention* from such *young wemon as her*.

I am ever, etc.

CATHERINE BUTTER.

Thackeray's remark "that people as soon thought of doing their own washing as their own spelling in those days" comes very near the truth, judging by the above specimen, and it would not be amiss to add grammar to the category.

The next letter is from Mr Alexander Boswell, an uncle of the Misses Douglas, and alludes to the family of Irving, into which the other sister married whom Miss Katty mentions as being less to be envied than herself.

DEAR SIR,

I am greatly obliged to you for your kind Letter acquainting me of our two Neices the Miss Douglas's having so near a prospect of being happily married, Mr Irving of Bonshaw I have the good fortune to be acquainted with and know him to be a very deserving man, and I never

<sup>1</sup> Miss Dick.

heard any reflection against him but one which was difficult to excuse. It was that he who represents a very good old and respectable family, the head of a noted Clan on the Borders which in old times made a great noise should have been so long of entering into the Marriage State and am glad he has at length fallen upon the proper method of putting an end to censure I dare say he and Miss Douglas will be very happy and have the same flattering expectations of the other pair from y<sup>e</sup> good character you give of the Doctor. It shall not be in my power to attend the Solemnity of the Marriage however agreeable it would be were it in my power meantime I think it is a good omen that they are to be married at your House which I look upon as Templum Concordia and I hope you and my Lady Dick will communicate the secret of bringing lovely children tho they should be boys. . . .

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> humble servant

Glasgow 9 Sept. 1767.

ALEXR. BOSWELL.



## Chapter XV.

The Corsican troubles—Bishop of Oxford's letter—Mr Campbell of Cawdor's letter—Mr Boswell and the Douglas cause—Sir John Dick receives the order of St Anne of Russia—The Duke of Gloucester's illness—A Masked ball—The Pope poisoned.

[1768—1774]





## Chapter XV.

As constant allusions are made in letters of this period to Corsica and the French, these remarks of Mr Campbell of Cawdor will be found interesting. Writing from Stackpole Court, Nov. 18th 1768, he says :

"I shall be proud to find any of my notions in regard to Corsica, or Douglas cause approved of by Mr Boswell.<sup>1</sup> I should think every impartial man must look upon the proceedings of the French in regard to that Nation, as unjust, ungenerous, mean, and cruel. I have no doubt that it would be very justifiable for any other Nation to assist the Corsicans but as it is the first Duty of every Government, to take care for the safety of their own People, I fear the late War in which there was such an extravagant profusion of the Blood and Treasure of Britain has not left us in a condition to enter into any War that is not necessary for our own preservation."

The following from Mr Boswell to Sir Alexander refers to this subject :

"Friday 30 June.

MY DEAR SIR,

Mr Copper of the Carron Company, who was in Corsica this summer, has a letter from Sir John Dick dated 26 May, from which I am so far comforted that although the French have taken Corte things are by no means so desperate as the papers have represented them ; And I flatter myself that the General will yet be able to stand it out for some time. God grant some favourable interposition, etc., etc.

J. B.

The celebrated Douglas Cause, alluded to in the following letter from Dr Lowth,<sup>2</sup> Bishop of Oxford, caused an immense excitement throughout Scotland.

<sup>1</sup> In the edition of Boswell's Life of Johnson issued by the Office of the National Illustrated Library there is a capital portrait of Boswell in the costume of a Corsican Chief. He published an *Account of Corsica* in 1768.

<sup>2</sup> Dr Lowth, born 1710, died 1787, was Bishop of Oxford and afterwards of London. He was an eminent Hebrew scholar, theologian, and poet, and was Professor of Poetry at Oxford.

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The point under consideration was the authenticity of Lady Jane Douglas' marriage on the Continent to Sir John Stewart. The case was carried to the House of Lords, and decided in favour of the son by the marriage upon which doubts had been thrown.

Boswell took a great interest in the matter and displayed much activity in connection with it.

"Argyle Street, Feb. 16 1769.

SIR,—As I did not come to Town for the Winter Season till about a month ago, I had not till very lately the pleasure of seeing Mr Tucker and of receiving the favour of your Letter from his hands. The great Douglas cause was then depending and somewhat advanced; and I thought that by waiting a few days I might be able to send you the earliest acc<sup>t</sup> of the decision of it with my thanks for your Letter. But that has met with so many unexpected interruptions y<sup>t</sup> I dare not any longer subject myself to the imputation of neglecting to acknowledge your favour. I must therefore content myself with informing you of the present state of that important business: the Council for the Respondents finished their pleading on Tuesday last; the Council for the Appellant are to reply next Monday; this part lies upon S<sup>r</sup> Fletcher Norton; it is supposed that he will take up two days and that another day will be appointed for the decision. The cause has been very well attended by a very respectable number of Lords with great assiduity.

As there was something particular in the manner of the death of our dear friend Mr Spence,<sup>1</sup> I will give you as exact an acc<sup>t</sup> of it as I can. In the summer of the year 1766 Mr Spence was seized with a Paralytic stroke, w<sup>ch</sup> however by immediate assistance he so well recovered that soon after there was hardly any visible remains of his disorder, except a degree of weakness w<sup>ch</sup> it must at best be supposed w<sup>d</sup> be the necessary consequence of it; and that rather general than affecting any particular part. As the winter came on, this weakness increased; and his spirits began to be greatly affected. He was unhappy in being unable to bear the least application and was forced to give up all his Literary Amusements. He consulted in succession two or three Physicians; the last, to whom he applied, a<sup>bt</sup> this time twelvemonth, put him into a more strengthening regimen; and Mr

<sup>1</sup> Mr Spence, mentioned in the Bishop of Oxford's letter, held the chair of modern history at Oxford, and was a literary man of some repute. He was also Prebendary of Durham in 1768.

Spence himself thought he received much benefit fr it. He spent some weeks with me in the country about two months before he died, and I thought him considerably better than he was the year before. The day that he died he was as well and as chearful as he had been of late at any time. He was at his own house in Surry.

Mr Shepard, a neighbouring Clergyman, who used to be much with him, was there; and another neighbour, a Lady. After dinner Mr Shepard read for some time an amusing book to him, as usual; and upon his going out to take a little walk, Mr Spence played a game of Picquet and a game at Backgammon with the Lady. He then said he would step to his next neighbour, Mrs Moore's, whom he often visited through his own garden by a back door, which opened over against her house. About half-an-hour after this his servant came in and inquired for his master; and as it began to rain, sent his coat to Mrs Moore's: when word was brought back that he had not been there, he immediately ran with it into the garden, supposing his master was walking; but he soon found him lying flat on his face in the Canal just at the edge, where the water was not a foot deep, quite dead. All measures were used to recover him, but to no purpose. He commonly walked round his little grove by this part of the Canal; at the place where he fell in, the bank is more sloping than at any other part; here he was probably taken with a fit of giddyness or fainting, or his foot slipped, and he had no strength to recover himself.

I give you this minute detail because I have heard of late, that it has been surmised and said (though I do not know, that it has been anything like a common report) that Mr Spence destroyed himself. I am fully persuaded that this notion has arisen merely from an addition of imaginary circumstances to the simple fact, that he was found in the water. I believe I knew as well as anyone the state of Mr Spence's mind, through his illness, and at the latter part of it; I have made y<sup>e</sup> most exact inquiries y<sup>t</sup> I could into the circumstances of this unhappy event; I am perfectly well acquainted with the situation of things and the whole scene of it w<sup>ch</sup> suggests arguments to me w<sup>ch</sup> I cannot clearly explain to you; and I assure you I am fully convinced, that his death was purely accidental.

I need not inform you, that our good Friend was no hoarder of wealth; whatever he could spare from his ordinary expenses he constantly bestowed in Charity; in pensions to poor people, in assisting occasionally persons in distress, in apprenticing children, &c., agreeably to this, and

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according to his design, he has left very little besides his goods, and the arrears of his Preferments; w<sup>ch</sup> will be found about sufficient to discharge a few debts and a few legacies, according to a calculation, w<sup>c</sup> he communicated to me, when he made his will, soon after his first disorder. I am very much obliged to you for your kind attention to my family concerns—the loss of our youngest and eldest daughter within five weeks of one another, was a very severe affliction to us; w<sup>ch</sup> my wife is far from having yet recovered. In these cases strength of constitution is of great use in seconding the efforts of reason and religion; she wants that advantage having been for some time in no good state of health, and at no time enjoying very good spirits.

I purpose being in the north every other year and accordingly was there last summer: if we ever accomplish our design of seeing Scotland, w<sup>ch</sup> we do not absolutely despair of, we shall with great pleasure embrace the opportunity of paying our respects at Prestonfield.

I am very glad to hear a good account of the very worthy and ingenious Dr Blacklock. Dr Robertson's History<sup>1</sup> is on y<sup>e</sup> eve of publication: the expectation of the public are great; but I daresay it will fully answer them.

Mr Tucker is at a great distance from me, and I have been so much engaged, that I have not yet been able to wait on him. I shall take the first opportunity of doing it. Mrs Lowth joins with me in most respectful comp<sup>ts</sup> to yourself Lady Dick and Miss Dick. I beg you to present my best respects to Mr Keith.—I am etc., etc.

R. OXFORD.

Mr Campbell of Cawdor also makes mention of the Douglas Cause. He writes from

Stackpole Court March 31 1769

DEAR SIR

•   •   •   •   •   •   •   •

I was truly glad to hear of Mr Douglas's success. It reflects great Honor upon the House of Lords that they did justice to an Orphan, notwithstanding such great and powerfull interest. I have not

<sup>1</sup> History of Scotland under Mary and James VI.



seen the Protest, I was surprised to hear of it ; but indeed one can scarce think of any affair that may not be seen in a different light by some. The Duchess Dowager of Douglas has indeed acted a Noble Part. I hope the young gentleman will all his life show himself, in every respect, deserving of his great Fortune and a worthy Representative of that Illustrious family.

I am at the same time much concerned to find that the most dangerous spirit of Riot and contempt of all legal Authority which has prevailed so much among the Dregs of the People at London has infected Edinburgh. At London designing and abandon'd wicked men have inflamed the unthinking Populace, and made them trample upon Law, and just Authority under pretence of securing the Constitution and destroy all Liberty under color of a zeal for it. And they have the Independence in the newspapers to speak of the whole Legislature, and all who are desirous to obey and be protected by the Laws of their country, as a Faction, and the Mob inflamed by a profligate Bankrupt, and encouraged by a few ill designing and some foolish ignorant or misinformed men. As the Nation, the uncorrupt, wise and Honest part of the People. The absurdity would be truly ridiculous if the bad Consequences did not make it a matter of very melancholy consideration.

I truly pity the Corsicans and detest the injustice, and indeed mean conduct of those who bought a pretence for a commonwealth of Tyrants to enslave that brave People. But wee should take care not to carry our zeal too far. That Charity should begin at home's a true and just saying ; though it has been disgraced by such as under pretence of it, would absolutely confine Charity always to begin and end there. The first duty of every government is to protect and preserve the People they govern, and not to hazard their destruction under pretence of affording a generous Protection to other distressed Nations. The late bloody expensive and romantic German War has not left us in a condition for Knight errantry though in a just cause. I do not conceive we are much interested in the Case and that the French will have so great advantage over us by the possession of that Island, nor have I seen that wee are much the better for what wee possess in the Mediterranean, though wee maintaine those Possessions at a vast expence.

Our common People are indeed always delighted with war and conquest, but I have long been convinced that the way to be very popular, is to act

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directly contrary to the true Interest of the People both at home and abroad." . . .

Your most oblidge and obedient

Humble Servant

J. CAMPBELL.

*P.S.*—My daughter Fortescue set out for London on the 28 ult., my Lord<sup>1</sup> having sent his Chaise for her, and a servant out of Livery (who always respected her) to conduct her.

Continuing the correspondence as much as possible in the order of dates, the next letters are from Consul Sir John Dick. In one of these he notices the part taken by Mr Boswell in the Douglas Cause, and also makes mention of his intended marriage, which meets with Sir John's approval, in the hope that it may make him a more sedate and useful member of society.

Mr Boswell writes himself to Sir Alexander from Lainshaw, and speaks of the lady, Miss Montgomerie, to whom he was affianced, as sitting by his side. If we may judge from the "Life of James Boswell," written by Mr Percy Fitzgerald, this marriage was not altogether a success.

In a letter dated March 15th 1772, Dr Johnson asks him this question—

"How comes it you tell me nothing of your lady? I hope to see her some time, and till then shall be glad to hear of her."

Sir John writes :

Park Lane 27 August 1768.

MY DEAR SIR ALEXANDER

I beg leave to convey to you my best and very sincere thanks for the two kind letters, etc., etc. The first came with the Diploma from the Heralds Office which you had been so good as to send me, and the latter by Sir John Pringle. . . . Since you are so good as to get a seal

<sup>1</sup> Mathew Fortescue, second Baron Fortescue, married in 1752 Anne, second daughter of John Campbell, Esq., of Cawdor Castle, County Nairn, and Stackpoole Court, County Pembroke. She died in 1812. Her eldest son, Hugh, was first Earl Fortescue.

made for me I shall be obliged to you if you will send it to Capt Timothy Mangles in Heydon Square near the Minories who will have other things to send me, the ships lay near his house and there is one sails for Leghorne the first of every month.

I should have been sett out ere this had I not receiv'd the Kings Commands to carry out the Ensigns of the Bath order for our friend Sir Horace<sup>1</sup> so that I am detained until they can be expedited. I am to deliver them to the Arch Duke to Invest him."

Leghorne 17 December 1768.

We had rather a disagreeable Journey as it rained almost all the way. At Turin I saw your friend Count Carberry, who talked much of the great civilities he had received from you.<sup>2</sup> At Milan we only stayed one day to dine with Count Permian and then proceeded to Florence where I was expected with impatience, as my friend Sir Horace longed for his red ribbon which the King charged me with for him.

The great Duke invested him with every possible mark of Eclat. There were above forty English Noblemen and Gentlemen there who attended the new Knight. This ceremony gave rise to many great dinners Balls &c. which lasted a fortnight and seemed more fatiguing than our journey—we then returned Home where I immediately had a return of my old complaints the Head and Stomach Achs this obliged me to remove to Pisa, where they immediately left me. Thus I am convinced that my complaints arise from the vapors of the Salt Marshes about this place. I am now returned again here and am tollerably well oweing to the cold Tramontana wind which purifies the air. Our Court has been at Pisa some time and is to come here at Christmass to pass most part of the Carnival here so that we shall be very gay. I doubt much that is the thing for a commercial place.

We are sometime without any news from Corsica, but as we know that much snow has fallen there we hope to hear that the brave Islanders will have drove the French into the Garrison Towns, if the poor General has but Money and Ammunition he has nothing to fear from all the force of France. What is our friend Mr Boswell about? I long to have the pleasure of hearing from him on this head. I wish some of these rich Nabobs would send him a lack of Rupees."

<sup>1</sup> Sir Horace Mann.

<sup>2</sup> At Prestonfield.

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"Leghorn, Oct. 20th 1769.

I cannot avoid (altho' late) sending you my congratulations on the Issue of the Douglass cause, altho' I wish our friend Mr Boswell had been more moderate, he tells me that he is now going to be married, I am glad of it, he will now become more . . . and I am sure that he will make a usefull Member of Society. I make no doubt but that he is now much taken up with his Illustrious tho' unfortunate Friend, alas, poor man, he deserved better fate, but perhaps better days are yet reserved for him, by this time he will have disappointed many who may have flattered themselves with the hopes of making a Tool of him, and I hope that he has convinced those I wished him to convince that He is too great and too good for any dirty work . . .

Within the last few days I have had the pleasure to hear from my worthy friend Colonel Keith,<sup>1</sup> he was so good as to send me agreeable news of his good Father<sup>2</sup> to whom pray present my respects, and also of you, who he says continues to find your happiness in contributing to that of others. I am rejoiced to think that he likes his situation.

I had forgot to say your letter and the very excellent Seal came to hand forwarded by my Friend. I have never yet seen anything of the kind so well cut . . .

We are likely to have more busy scenes in these parts. You must have heard of the Revolt at Montenegro where the Inhabitants have taken the oaths to the Empress of Russia, and all the Greeks in the Levant are ripe for a revolt, they only wait the appearance of the Russian Fleet, if they meet with no obstruction from the French, the whole Turkish Empire will be in danger, is not this a bold undertaking for fresh water seamen.

Mr James Boswell to Sir Alexander.

Lainshaw,

18th March 1769.

DEAR SIR,—Carrickfergus is delayed for some little time. My father who is here with me begs you will be so kind as to let him have some spawn of Perch. It seems your George is a man of great skill (I should

<sup>1</sup> Colonel, afterwards General Sir Robert Murray Keith, K.B., G.C.B., was Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Courts of Dresden, Copenhagen and Vienna, from 1769 to 1792.

<sup>2</sup> Who ran away with Miss Dick, Sir Alexander's sister.



## The Empress of Russia's Decoration 239

say *profound* skill as it is an *aquatick* science) in that matter, so I give you the trouble of this to ask your interest with him, to get some to be sent out by our carrier on Wednesday. Mr John Stobie my father's clerk is charged with these presents.

Miss Montgomerie<sup>1</sup> who is sitting by me, joins in best compliments to you all. By and by you shall hear from me at greater length.

I ever am, etc. etc. JAMES BOSWELL.

The Consul to Sir Alexander.

Pisa, 28th February 1771.

I ought to have thanked you my dear Sir Alexander long before this for your kind and obliging letter of the 3rd Sept. last, for some time I differ'd it, in hopes of hearing that the Picture which I took the liberty to send to you had reach'd your hands, and in the mean while a Torrent of business flow'd in upon me which has not left me a moment to myself for some time Past.

You no doubt will wonder how comes all this Business in Peaceable times. I therefore in confidence acquaint you ; that when the Empress of Russia resolved to send a Fleet into these Seas, she wished that I would take upon me the management of all the Money Concerns, and providing it &c. &c. The King thought that it would be improper for me to accept of a publick character, not to give Jealousy to the Port, but had no objection to my acting in a private capacity. I therefore had the superintendency of all their affairs, and gott my worthy Friend Mr Rutherford (a gent well known to our Friend Boswell) appointed the acting agent. And I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that both Her Imperial Majesty and all Her Ministers greatly overrate my endeavours to be of use to Her, last summer the Empress sent me a gold medallion sett round on both sides with Diamonds.<sup>2</sup> The letter which accompanied it from Count Panin, was still more value, and indeed all the letters which I continue to receive from thence are very flattering, but the occupation which this undertaking occasions is immense for besides providing their Fleets with Stores &c. Ammunition, Provision, Careening and repairing the Ships Providing the

<sup>1</sup> "November 25, 1769. At Lainshaw, in the County of Ayr, James Boswell, Esq., of Auchinleck, advocate to Miss Peggy Montgomerie, daughter of the late David Montgomerie of Lainshaw, Esq." Mr Percy Fitzgerald in his "Life of James Boswell," mentions the above marriage as taking place at "Lanislaw," and spells Montgomerie with a final y. The above letter points to a slight misnomer, and the final y in Montgomery was not commonly used at that date.

<sup>2</sup> The Order of St Anne of Russia.



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necessary Funds &c. the Correspondence with the different departments, and with all Her Imperial Majesty's Ministers at Foreign Courts, makes no inconsiderable object. I mention these particulars as an apology for my silence but it would be improper to have it known publicly, least our enemies should insinuate, that the King's Servants are employ'd in rendering services to the Enemies of the Port.

Count Orlov has been with us again about two months, and as he lodged at my House, you may easily conclude that this circumstance added to my occupations, he is now on a land expedition, and will be back about the middle of April, when the operations will be carried on with Vigor, and I doubt not but the Turks will find their error, in not having made a Peace this winter.

We have lately had several very severe Earthquakes at Leghorn, they continued for about 12 days three and four in a day, above three-fourths of the Inhabitants left the Town, many houses were severely damaged but none fell, the Carnival amusements were suspended, and Processions took the place of Masquerades.

The Court has been here near three months, and stays here untill the Holy week—it is impossible to conceive how amiable and gracious the Arch Duke is, indeed the great Duchess has also great Merit, as she has many excellent qualities. . . .

Pray be so good as to acquaint our friend Mr Boswell that I shall write to him very soon."

Writing again on the 25th October 1771, he says :

"I make no doubt that you will have been alarmed on the advices of His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester's Illness ; it has been Violent, Painfull, and dangerous, as the Flux continued for nine days, and it is amazing with what resolution and Patience His Royal Highness has born it. I cannot describe to you how unhappy we have been for several days continually fluctuating between hopes and fears, neither can I paint the Excessive Joy which we now feel on hearing the Physicians pronounce Him out of danger. In the midst of all our distress we had the Consolation to reflect that His Royal Highness had every Assistance and Convenience that could be wished for, and He has frequently Condescended to mention how happy he was in being in my House. I hope that H.R.H. will continue here some time, as here are no temptations of Amusements

that can endanger his Health, this letter goes by one of the Duke's servants, who is dispatched to carry the agreeable news to the King, and I could not lett slip the opportunity to acquaint you with it that you might as soon as possible participate of our Joy.

Our friends the Russians are I hope doing well, our last letters from them are dated the 5th August from Paros, but we hear since that they have landed on the Island of Negroponte, and that they were besieging the Castle—nay some Masters of Ships that have arrived from the Levant say that they have taken it, but as Ship news is not always the most authentic we wait for more certain advices. . . . The Court of Vienna begins to be extremely Jealous at the Success of the Russians, and if matters cannot be settled this winter I fear that the flames of War will spread ; but I hope in spite of the French Intrigues that the Temple of Janus will once more be shut, and that soon. In this part of the World the Factions and Intrigues at the Court of Parma seems to furnish great matter of Conversation, but as I do not care to spoil my eyes with looking and examining into them thro' a Microscope, I hope you will excuse my silence on that head, save that where ever there is any disturbances, you may take it for granted that the French are at the bottom of it. I wish that our friend Colonel Keith may find his situation at Copenhagen agreeable, I am sure that he deserves it. I had the satisfaction the other day to hear that he was well.

Pray say a thousand kind things for me to our friend Mr Boswell. . . . And I hope that you will always allow me the Honor of being with the most Respectfull and Affectionate Attachment, My Dear Sir Alexander, etc., etc.

Again writing from

Leghorn, 6th Nov. 1772

he says :

"I was always in hopes that I should soon be more at leisure to attend to my friends by the appearance of the Peace between the Russians and Turks, but in this I have been disappointed, however by the advices which I have again received from the Danube my hopes are again revived that the Temple of Janus will soon be shut—it will realy grieve me if the second attempt to conclude this salutary work should miscarry, not only for the sake of Humanity but for my Friend Mr Rutherford and myself. . . . The violent hott weather which we have had this summer together

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with too much occupation has greatly affected my Nerves and brought on the Convulsions, but as the air now begins to cool I am in hopes that I shall grow better.

I cannot express to you the pleasure that I had on hearing the repeated good news of my worthy friend Col. Keith, who I was always sure would make his way as soon as he had his foot once in the stirrup. . . . I was at Rome with the Duke of Gloucester, when the advices came, and it was an additional pleasure to me to hear that Amiable and Virtuouse Prince, express himself so strongly in favor of the worthy Colonel. I long to hear that he is settled at Vienna, as am in hopes, that I shall have frequently the pleasure of hearing from him, he will arrive at Vienna at a very Interesting Epoch and I look upon it as fortunate for the Nation that we shall have such an able Minister there. I think that by the Observations which I made here on the Emperor that the Colonel cannot fail of being a favourite with him, in short the prospect is flattering, on which I beg the favour of you to present his worthy Father my very sincere Congratulations and most Respectfull Compliments likewise to Sir Basil.<sup>1</sup> . . .

I can say nothing yet about my return to Britain, as it depends upon many circumstances, I however hope, that in a few months hence I shall be able to see my way a little clearer. I however own I begin to long for retirement. . . . I have the Honour to be always, etc., etc.

JOHN DICK.

The next information is derived from an "extract of a letter from a gentleman in the suite of his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, dated Pisa, Dec. 5," and published in a London paper Jan. 2nd 1772.

"His Royal Highness returned to Pisa from Florence the 30th of November and arrived at Leghorn the next day. On the 1st of this month he dined on board the *Trident*, Admiral Sir Peter Denis accompanied by the Grand Duke and Duchess, Prince Corsini, Duke Salviatti and several

<sup>1</sup> "His Majesty conferred the honor of G.C.B. on Sir Basil Keith, younger brother of General Sir Robert Keith. He was made Governor of Jamaica, but died about four years later; being universally adored by the people of the Island, their regret for his loss was expressed in a monument to his memory." "He was early bred to the sea," says Sir Alex. Dick in his diary, "and at eleven years of age was in the great action when Captain Grenville fought in a 90-gun ship under Admiral Hawke, who was killed by a cannon ball, holding Basil in his hand."

English noblemen, particularly Lord Cowper, Lord Cholmondeley, Lord Lincoln, etc.

The ship was splendidly and elegantly fitted up for the reception of those illustrious guests ; the lower deck guns were fired upon the occasion, and the evening concluded with a magnificent masked ball and supper given by Sir John Dick the English Consul, who lives in all the splendour of a Minister and is highly worthy of such a character.

On the 4th his Royal Highness dined with Prince Corsini, when the English nobility before named were invited, and in the evening the Grand Duke gave a ball and a supper. We are hourly in the expectation of the arrival of Mr Adair and Dr Jebb, and as soon as they come shall proceed to Rome.

Writing on the 21st Oct. 1774 Sir John says :

“Thank God the Peace is concluded; an event I much wished for, but the winding up such immense concerns is a thing of no small consequence, however this, as well as everything else, must have an end.

I am sorry to inform you of the death of Lord Morton at Faormina thought to be occasioned by his visit to Mount Etna which brought on a malignant fever.

There does not remain a doubt but that the late Pope<sup>1</sup> was poisoned, they even pretend to say that this horrid act was perpetrated the last Holy week. The Pope felt it in a few days afterwards, but all the Art of Medicine could not save his life, one of his Confectioners was taken ill at the same time, with the same symptoms and died a few days after him, in the same manner, his Intestines were all ulcerated, and when the Surgeon took his head into his hands when he was going to embalm him, all his Hair fell off and his Teeth fell out : poor man he always apprehended that he was to dye in this manner.

The Strangers will have a great Loss of him, and he is regretted by everyone save the Jesuits and their Partisans.

<sup>1</sup> Clement XIV.





## Chapter XVI.

Baronets of Nova Scotia—A Diamond Badge—Notes by Sir Alexander Dick—A Journey to the North—Review of the Grey Dragoons—Influenza—Death of David Hume—Mr Forbes Leith's letter—Sir John resigns his post.

[1773-1780.]



## Chapter XVI.

THE order of Baronets of Nova Scotia<sup>1</sup> was instituted by King James I. on the 18th October 1624, for the purpose of aiding and promoting the colonization of that country. His idea was carried into effect by his son Charles I. by conferring the title of Baronet upon the Honourable Sir Robert Gordon; the Charter of the premier Baronet being made the regulating Charter for the whole order.

By a royal warrant dated Whitehall 17th November 1629, King Charles authorized the Baronets to wear, with an orange ribbon, a personal badge of distinction charged with the royal Arms of the province of New Scotland, viz.: "In a scutcheon argent a saltoire azure, thereon an escutcheon of the Arms of Scotland, with an imperiall crowne above the escutcheon and encircled with this motto—'*Fax Mentis Honestæ Gloria.*'"

The first one hundred and eleven Baronets had grants of 16,000 acres each with their titles,

"the same to be held by themselves their Heirs and Assigns, of the Crown of Scotland as Free Baronies and Regalities, with hereditary seat and voice in the Legislative Diets of the Province."

In connection with this, it may have been noticed amongst the old letters quoted in this collection, that some are addressed to *The Right Honourable* Sir James Dick, and others to his wife as *The*

<sup>1</sup> "In 1763 the treaty of Paris was concluded, when Nova Scotia, in its original limits, was restored to the British Crown, and when, according to the law of nations, and the usages of the British Government in all times past, the rights of the Baronets to their baronies and regalities of 16,000 acres each, revived."

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*Honourable* Lady Dick, and there are also several besides those mentioned in which the prefix *The Honourable* is given. At a Meeting of the Order in 1848 all the Baronets were addressed in that manner. There is a single instance of the dignity of a *Baronetess* of Nova Scotia being conferred, in the person of Dame Mary Bolles with succession to her Heirs Male.

It was doubtless owing to the troubled times in the latter part of King Charles' reign, and in the Cromwellian Era which ensued, when it was the object of every liege subject who valued his head to keep as much out of evidence as possible, that all these distinctions of Royal favour were put aside, and that many for the time lay dormant.

In the year 1734 Meetings of the Baronets took place in London relative to their privileges, but it was not until 1775 that the matter was actually taken up, and the following circular issued from the Lyon Office, Edinburgh.<sup>1</sup>

Lyon-Office 28th March 1775.

SIR,

By a Royal Warrant from King Charles the First dated 17th November 1629, the Baronets of Nova Scotia are entitled to wear, hanging upon the breast, suspended by an Orange Silk Ribbon, round the neck, the Arms of Nova Scotia, enamelled in proper colours on an oval gold medal.

It is a matter of regret to many gentlemen of that order, that the use of the above honourable badge of distinction, conferred by the Sovereign, has been totally neglected; and as, by the nature of my office, I am called upon to attend to the observance of regularity, and propriety in all matters of honour, I think it proper to remind you, as a Baronet of Scotland, of this privilege of your order.

As the number of Scottish Baronets has very much decreased since the Union, whereby the importance in point of respect, of those who remain is increased, the exercise of the above privilege becomes the more deserving of attention; and I flatter myself, that, by recommending a revival thereof,

<sup>1</sup> See Nova Scotia Question, List of Charters, etc., printed and published by W. Brettell, 36 New Bond Street, 1848.

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I shall, while I am doing a thing not foreign to the duty of my office, render, at the same time, an acceptable service to the Honourable Body whom it more particularly concerns.

I submit to you, and to your brethren (to all of whom I have written to the same purpose) what measures may be most proper to be followed for answering the end of the above recommendation ; but should presume, that it will be necessary, in the first place, to call one General Meeting of the Order at London, and another at Edinburgh, for their opinion on the subject. If a meeting of this kind would be agreeable to you, you will please to signify to me any time before the first of May next, when, if I find myself properly authorised for that purpose, I shall advertise one such meeting at London, and another at Edinburgh, without delay.

I am respectfully,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) RO. BOSWELL, Lyon Dep.

In reply to this Sir Alexander Dick writes :

“Prestonfield, 15 April 1775.

SIR,—I was favour'd with your very obliging and pointed Letter of the 28th of last March relative to the Baronets of Nova Scotia and their Interest in wearing a Ribbon and Badge conferred on them, so far back as 1629 by the Royal warrant of King Charles the First, but disus'd as I have heard, by the interruption of the long and disastrous civil war, during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell.

If the rest of my Brethren of the order of Baronets shall seem inclined to meet to consider of this matter so obligingly recommended to them from Lord Lyon and your office, you may depend upon my readiness to concur in every measure that shall appear proper and fit on such an occasion ; more especially if his Majesty, who is the Fountain of Honour, is in the due form, made acquainted with the intention of such Revival.

I have the Honour to be to Lord Lyon and to you as his Depute with all Respect, etc., etc.

ALEXANDER DICK.

Sir John Dick writes :

“My situation here deprives me of the Pleasure of being present. I



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shall however desire my worthy Friend Sir A. Dick to concur for me in any measures that may be agreed on at the meeting."

Leghorn, the 27th April 1775.

Sir John Cunyngham, writing from Capringtoun Castle 5th August 1775, to his brother Sir Alexander Dick, says :

"I was allways jealous that the revival of the Nova Scotia Badge would meet with obstruction. Lord Suffolk's Letter is indeed a courtly one, but sure its the Question to a very tedious and expensive Issue. The short and the long of the matter is the bestowing Ribbons and such ornamental distinctions is become an engine of power, by the use of which it has other and great ends and will not therefor by rendering it too common lose its utility."

Again in Nov. 1775 he writes :

"In obedience to an Advertisement in the Papers requiring concurrence to the address proposed to be presented to His Majesty by the Baronets in their Badges. By a Letter of this date I have signified to the Committee my Approbation of that measure. But I must whisper into your ear, and leave it to your judgement to determine, if it were not proper to signify to one of the Secretaries of State the maner in which this Address is to be Presented and not as Commodore Trunnion says Rux Bump on His Majesty before He is previously inform'd of the mark of distinction which the Baronets propose to assume."

Writing from Leghorn on the 15th January 1776 to Sir Alexander, Sir John Dick says :

"I beg your acceptance of my very sincere thanks for your goodness in communicating the particular steps taken by the Baronets of Scotland relative to their Resolution of reassuming the use of the Ribbon and Badge of their order. I perceive by the papers that this resolution was carried into Execution on St Andrew's Day."

That Sir John was not going to be content with the ordinary badge is evident from reference he makes to an order he had given his Jeweller, who had already received instructions from

him to make a plain badge for himself and Lord Cowper. He writes anent :

"Mr Dingwall, Jeweller, in St James Street, who was making my Diamont Badge, but to this moment I am without further advices from him about it, and fear his Letters and Badges have been intercepted."

Having brought this matter to a satisfactory conclusion, Sir John continues his correspondence with this information :

"To-morrow we are to have the great Duke, his sister the Arch Dutchess Christina, with her Husband Prince Albert of Saxony. You will have heard that the Dutchess of Gloucester has brought forth a Prince at Rome, the Duke and Dutchess of Saxgotha, and the Margrave of Anspach Bareith, were Sponsors, the Prince's name is William Frederic. Their Royal Highness have been so gracious as to Invite us to Rome, but Business has prevented our being able to pay our Duty to them there."

From the letters we turn next to some jottings from Sir Alexander Dick's *Occasional Memoranda* of every-day events at home, as well as of what was taking place in the outside world. These are entertaining in themselves, besides being curious from the mixture of information recorded in them.

He begins on March 23d 1773.

"Dalkeith District meets at D. about the High Roads of which I am Convener, and have been these 22 years past since 1751, the year the Turnpike Act commenced for Midlothian.

*April 2.*—Mr Thomson brot me a new wig to-day, and I got 6 tickets for shaving from him.

*July 1.*—Sir Adol<sup>1</sup> and Lady Oughton, Mr Keith and Sir Basil (Keith), my Br Sir John and his son, and Dr Hope dined here. Sir Basil sets out in a few days and is to be married to Miss Warren before he sets out for his government in Jamaica.

*Aug.*—Mr Andrew Lumsdain<sup>2</sup> my good and worthy cousin came here after 25 years absence in Italy and France in good health and spirits and

<sup>1</sup> Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Scotland,

<sup>2</sup> Had been a prominent Jacobite.

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caressed by all his friends and considerable persons in Scotland, he having obtained the King's liberty of coming home.

*Nov. 8.*—For 6 weeks past had 5 or 6 pair each week of coots or Wild Duck shot for my house from ye loch<sup>1</sup> and several fine hares. My eldest daughter still at Balcarres with Lady Anne Lindsay,<sup>2</sup> who is to stay here some little time after she comes.

*Nov. 18.*—Dr Johnson and Mr James Boswell dine here to-morrow<sup>3</sup>—which they did, and I gave Mr Johnson Rhubarb seeds and some melon.

*May 22.*—Dined yesterday with Lady Dalrymple my sister and Lady Balcarres my niece, with all my family. The news of the King of France's death of the smallpox the 10th at 3 afternoon confirmed by the London Gazette."

The following extract from Tytler and Watson's "Songstresses of Scotland" tells how Lady Balcarres' marriage came about.

"Earl James (Balcarres), who died at seventy-seven when his eldest Daughter was seventeen years of age, had seen service both by sea and land; but his own and his father's share in the Rebellion of 1715 spoiled his promotion. He was grey and gaunt, somewhat of a Baron Bradwardine, though more accomplished than learned.

In his brigadier wig and gouty shoe he lost his heart at Moffat to fat, fair, and severely sensible Miss Dalrymple, who in her twenty-third year was nearly young enough to have been his grand-daughter. The Earl proposed. Miss Dalrymple said Nay. The Earl more or less of an invalid all his life, fell sicker than usual under his disappointment, and made his will. Having no near relations, with great dignity and magnanimity he left his obdurate mistress half his slender fortune. But the Earl did not die then; and Miss Dalrymple, hearing of the deed, was smitten to the heart, and became the energetic Countess, the over-anxious, imperious mother of eleven spirited children."

*May 23rd.*—"The new King of France, Louis 16, and his 2 brothers, and ye Countess d'Artois, were inoculated for ye small pox on ye 17 of last month.

<sup>1</sup> Duddingston.

<sup>2</sup> Afterwards Lady Anne Barnard, authoress of "Auld Robin Grey."

<sup>3</sup> BOSWELL: "Sir Alex Dick tells me that he remembers having a thousand people in a year to dine at his house; that is reckoning each person as one each time he dined there."

JOHNSON: "That, Sir, is about three a day."—*Boswell's Life of Johnson.*

"I dined at Cameron House with ye Duke of Argyle and his brother, Lord Frederic, with Capt. Gunning, my tenant, there."

After various entries of the same description, we come to an account of his journey to the north, which his friends had for some time past been urging him to undertake.

*August 1, 1774.*—"I set out for the north with Mr George Fraser, Dep. Auditor of Excise, and did not return till y<sup>e</sup> 27. Went by Queensferry, by Kinross, to Perth. Coupar of Angus, Lord Privy Seal's, where we dined, Forfar, Brechin, first looking on to Glamis and y<sup>e</sup> Loch of Forfar. Went on to Dun and found Mr Erskine at home, and my niece, Miss Ann Keith there, visited Montrose, proceeded to Stonehive,<sup>1</sup> saw Dunottar Castle and dined with Mr Barclay of Urie. Went to Aberdeen, admired much the place and y<sup>e</sup> people, and ye industry in y<sup>e</sup> stocking way to ye extent of £100,000 per annum. Saw Lady Di Middleton, went by Ellon to Strichen and stay'd with my Lord and his son and family 8 days. Went afterwards to Banff, visited Elgin and all Murray and Forbes, having first passed the Spey at Gordon Castle. Returned down Findhorn water to the old Castle of Calder, admired its agreeable aspect. Mr Campbell, the proprietor, my old friend in Pembrokeshire, passed on to Fort George, dined at ye officers of ye Fort and Major Brewster of ye artillery. Passed that afternoon over the 2 Ferry's to Sir John Gordon's, where we stayed 3 days. My cough, not then favourable from some easterly foggs, made my excuse to Balnagown (Ross), Collonell Monro, and a letter to y<sup>e</sup> Earl of Caithness that I was obliged to postpone my visit.

"Sett out for Dingwall, saw Mr Henry Davison and pay'd him ye £5 left with me for him, went on to the Ford of Beaulieu and Lord Lovat's country and place and dined with Doctor Fraser, the good Landlord of Auchnagarry. Lay at Inverness, saw the field of Culloden at a distance. Took up to the Highland Road by Corrievaugh, Aviemore . . . and here we saw Maclean's excellent husbandry, having passed the Laird of Grant's large natural woods of Fir, a waste of many miles, no houses, persons, or beasts. Saw Lady Mackintosh's sweet place, past Dalnacardoch and Dalwhinnie, and lay at Blair, a good Inn, and breakfasted with the Duke of Athol, and showed him my true Rhubarb; saw the Duke's fine Kitchen garden and the great Rhubarb plantation. Passed the august and noble road by the

<sup>1</sup> Stonehaven.



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Pass of Killiecrankie 24 miles till we reacht Dunkeld. A very wet day. Next day past a most agreeable day seeing Mr Sandeman's great 50 acre bleachfield and all the machinery. Repassed by Perth and went up Strathern, called at Lord Kinoul. Lay at Invermay, and returned next home—viz., y<sup>e</sup> 27 by Queensferry. Found all my Family well and the house new papered in ye Parlour.

*Oct. 11, 1774*.—"The writ came last week for the election of the members to the new Parliament, which the Sheriff has fixed for ye 20th. To prepare for it I got the List of the Electors, which are 104.<sup>1</sup>

*Oct. 20.*—"This day our County of Midlothian Election came on, and Mr Solicitor Dundas carried against Sir Alex. Gilmour—57 for ye solicitor, 21 for Sir Alex., and the solicitor one of them! They behaved like friends and gentlemen to one another, tho' they dined in separate houses. This last was, I hear, owing to Sir John Dalrymple, who likes to fish in troubled waters.

*Oct. 23.*—"My birthday, being 71 years out; my sister, Dalrymple, born this day a year after me, came out to see me and stay here some days. Provost Archibald Stewart, the old gentleman and father of the city, dined here that day, and his brother-in-law Mr Haliburton.

On the occasion of Mr Keith's death I got an excellent letter from the Duke of Queensberry, and another from Potsdam from the Earl of Marshall.<sup>2</sup>

*Dec. 3.*—"I got a letter from Dr Fordyce, London, acquainting me from the Committee of Arts and Agriculture that my 4½ lb. of true Rhubarb was judged preferable to all and therefore awarded me their Gold Medal.

*April 21, 1773.*—"Adjusted with Lord President and Magistrates the great work on the Leith Road from the Bridge to Broughton 60 ft. broad free of Toll.

*May 20.*—"By yesterday's post a letter dated 27 April last from Sir John Dick Consul at Leghorn with the agreeable news that the Grand Duke and Empress of Russia had conferred the Order of St Ann upon him for his great services to the Marine of Russia in the Archipelago during the late War with the Ottoman Port, till the happy conclusion of the Peace, and he sends the King of Brittain his Majesty's approbation in the copy and the Grand Duke of Russia's letter and his answer to the Duke.

*May 30.*—"We went into mourning for y<sup>e</sup> Queen of Denmark.

<sup>1</sup> In the County of Midlothian,

<sup>2</sup> Keith, Earl Marischal.



*June 5.*—"The Review of the Grey Dragoons at Mussleburgh, a favorite Scots Corps of old standing. 20,000 people said to be present, a very fine warm day and a noble sight.

*June 14.*—"Meeting of the Knights-Baronets at Fortune's<sup>1</sup> was pretty numerous about 20 present and many proxies and letters sent about 50. Agreed to wear the Badge of Charles the I. granted by the Royal Warrant of Nova Scotia. The family of the Wyvils 4 dined here that day Sir Marmaduke's heirs and Mr Boswell and Mons le Clerc.

*June 21.*—"Mons le Clerc and Mr Bruce of Kinnaird the great traveller and others dined here. Flowers very fine and numerous Rosebuds pulled for Conserve.

*July 8.*—"Sir R. Keith arrived this evening

Mr Boswell &c. dined here. Curran wine found excellent."<sup>2</sup>

*Apropos* of Sir Robert Keith, who seems to have been a confirmed bachelor, it is said that the celebrated Duchess of Kingston, who was tried and convicted for bigamy, set her cap at him. On being recommended to appropriate this lady and her enormous jointure, he replied:—

"Faugh, the very idea is revolting. Let her carry her Ducheship and her dowry to some other market."<sup>3</sup>

*August 9.*—"Many human skulls found in the marle (in dredging Duddingston Loch) and Roman brass spears and sword and what appears melted brass metal of lamps.<sup>4</sup>

*August 28.*—"I went to the Playhouse to see *Macbeth* by Diggs and *Lady M<sup>c</sup>B.* by Miss Young and *Love à la mode*—both well performed.

*Nov. 17.*—"I am getting a new tooth, utmost behind where none was ever before (age 73).

*Nov. 22.*—"The Influenza from a closeness of the atmosphere with streaks of the clouds like rays from a centre in South observed several

<sup>1</sup> A coffee-house and sort of club.

<sup>2</sup> This wine he describes as being made by Lady Dick and his daughter Elizabeth.

<sup>3</sup> "Memoirs and Correspondence of Sir R. Keith."

<sup>4</sup> A description of these will be found in "Pre-Historic Annals of Scotland," by Sir Daniel Wilson, LL.D. The specimens presented by Sir Alexander to the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries in Edinburgh are the only ones remaining, the weapon presented to H.M. George the III., and the specimens retained by the family having all disappeared.

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weeks agoe while the stormy weather prevailed. It affected first the horses about London with cold in the head, then every Family young and old rich and poor they complained of headaches sore throat and cough, now is going north and prevails over Edinburgh and its vicinity first among the servants next in the family. My family this day all down with it. The horses are yet free. Ordered them some garlic among their carrots and corn.

Woodcocks appeared and wild geese in large flocks."

Attention must be drawn to the next paragraph, both on account of the curious topic selected for conversation and the matter-of-fact manner in which it is related.

*January 22, 1776.*—"My sister Lady Dalrymple in appearance better. In the evening she invited her old friends Lady Sinclair and Mrs —— with her daughter Lady Balcarres to play at cards and sup with her. She seemed cheerful and merry, but between hands spoke to them of her Burial and how and where she was to be interred viz. in the Church of Duddingston in my vault there. . ."

She died the following day suddenly, while walking upstairs.

*January 23.*—"About this time a letter from Jamie Norris at his Mother's in London having been *7 weeks from Leith to London* by the storms ice etc. not easily accounted for.

*August 31.*—"The celebrated David Hume the historian died this week and buried very privately. He was my 45 years' old acquaintance He bought a burial place in Calton Hill Churchyard at £5 ster. and lys there. A monument is to be inscribed to him. He left about £12,000 to his brothers and friends mostly got by his writings.

*Nov. 24.*—"By Friday's post a letter from Sir Basil at Jamaica. Report at Glasgow of the 4 transports come to Cork with the great news of a victory compleat got by Gen<sup>r</sup> Howe over the Rebels at Kingsbridge near N. York and 5000 taken or slain of y<sup>e</sup> Rebels and few lost on the King's Army who are marching to Philadelphia.

*Nov. 27.*—"By last night's post the London Gazette with the great good news of the victory over the Rebels on Lake Champlain near Crown Point and the taking or destroying all around Rebels and Crown Point left abandoned and houses burnt. Capt. Douglas' letter bears that Lieut.



My Dear Sir.

I send you for your amusement  
four Rampagers which you  
will please return & tell  
me how you like them; as also  
The Hypochondriack N<sup>o</sup>. IX  
which you may keep.

Heaven grant you a full  
recovery, and if you will  
allow your friends to use  
Horace's votive verse  
Servus in cælum!

I am ever most affectionately  
yours  
Pray continue the notes <sup>or Biographies.</sup> James Bonnell.

Butler and Jamie Norris were all safe and well after the action, in which they were with Lieut. Sparkie in the Inflexible.

*January 7 1777.*—"Willy's<sup>1</sup> Birthday, Mr Jas Boswell and the India Mr Boswell Mrs Young etc etc. all dined here and Mr Mercer and danced. We had a fine piece of boiled beef and greens, a large Turkey, some fine Chickens 250 fine Asparagus from my hot bed and a fine pig, all from the Farm—and wine from the Farm (*i.e.* curran and gooseberry) and Greek from the Consul of Leghorn and Claret and Port and Punch and a fine Parmesan Cheese also fr Leghorn.

*Jan 12.*—"Last week Mr James Boswell my friend expressed a desire to make a Biographical account of my life to my 74<sup>th</sup> year. . . . I looked over many jottings and . . . of past times and we had some droll interviews and it becomes he says very interesting—(it may perhaps some, my son)."

As a specimen of the handwriting of Mr James Boswell, a facsimile of one of his briefer letters, containing an allusion to the above-mentioned Biography, is here displayed.<sup>2</sup>

In connection with the friendship of Boswell and Sir Alexander it may be well to give the following extracts from the former's *Life of Johnson*.

Sir Alex. Dick to Dr Samuel Johnson.

Prestonfield, Feb 17, 1777

"SIR

I had yesterday the honour of receiving your book of your 'Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland' which you were so good as to send me by the hands of our mutual friend Mr Boswell of Auchinleck; and after carefully reading it over again, shall deposit it in my little collection of choice books next our worthy friend's 'Journey to Corsica,' etc. etc.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Alexander's eldest son.

<sup>2</sup> With reference to the *Hypochondriack* mentioned in his letter, Mr Boswell writes: "I told him" (Johnson) "I should send some Essays which I had written which I hoped he would be so good as to read, and pick out the good ones." They appeared under the title of *Hypochondriack* in the *London Magazine* 1775 to 1784.



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And again, referring to a remark in the above letter, we have Dr Johnson writing to Mr Boswell.

“Sir Alexander Dick is the only Scotsman liberal enough not to be angry that I could not find trees where trees were not. I was much delighted by his kind letter.”

In a letter received by Sir Alexander from Mr A. Frazer, written from “L’hooque, near Ipris, 17th Oct. 1775,” this account is given

“Of a most disagreeable accident w<sup>h</sup> happened to the Prince d’Aremberg, eldest son of the Duc d’Aremberg on the 9<sup>th</sup> of last month while a hunting with his father and Sir William Gordon our minister at Brussels.

Sir W<sup>m</sup> fired as he thought at some partridges, but lodged the whole fire in the Princes face—At first he only complained of want of sight in his left eye, but now for these 10 days past he is totally blind.

Mr Adair is with him, and has been for about that time and gives some hopes but faint ones of the possibility of recovering the sight of one. This young man was exceedingly promising and adored by the people of this country, but now all their hopes from his abilities are blasted and Sir Wm. Gordon inconsolable.

He has it is said asked to be recalled from that Court.”

Another extract from a letter to Sir Alexander, written by Mr John Forbes, Leith, dated Whitehaugh, May 31st, 1775, is interesting from the account it gives of the state of agriculture in Aberdeenshire, and the great want of bridges over the rivers Dee, Don, and Spey. These rivers being wide, stony, rapid, and subject to constant heavy floods, fording is both dangerous and difficult in many parts, and often impossible.

“Your situation, and that of the Country where your first Ideas have been form’d, in the near neighbourhood of a Great City, of the Sea, of Coal, of every aid to be drawn from thence, differs so much from mine here, that it may be hard to conceive the infinity of Obstructions attending every attempt to Industry, but the Dispositions of people habituated in, and tenaciously fond of Idleness and its Progeny, multiply the difficulties almost into impossibilities, which nought but the Labor improbus of

Obstinacy can conquer, with the satisfaction of persevering in a perceived Duty to smoothe and support the mind of the Adventurer.

Our Island is happily secur'd by the Sea from inroading Rivals, and opened to Commerce. That part of it where I live is indeed excluded from y<sup>e</sup> rest of y<sup>e</sup> Island, in some degree on the South by y<sup>e</sup> Chain of y<sup>e</sup> Grampian Mountains, passable in several places except during some winter months; but the Dee a large, rapid, strong River (till we shall be bless'd with a Bridge long wished for and for which Nature has laid and pointed out a Noble Foundation of Rocks you'd think spread for y<sup>e</sup> Purpose) is a grievous obstruction, which the governing Sense and Power of the Nation ought to have removed Centuries ago, but still remains a Disgrace. The Don, my more pleasant neighbouring River in front, and the Spy, which runs great and rapid about 24 Scots miles north of me, claim a like Publick Care to render them passable and secure at all seasons.

Yet in this encumber'd and hamper'd state, we have many endowments, which Industry, at length dawning, will open into Blessings.

We have the sea and its benefits on the East, on the West indeed continual mountains render Commerce and Communication rare.

The North is open and the Moray Firth introduces the sea to advantage far, and Towns and Ports are many along the Coast, insomuch that a carrier from hence can reach Aberdeen, Banff, Portsoy, or Cullen in a short day.

The Banks of the Dee, which runs along the north side of our Grampians are by Nature destin'd for Woods and Industry finds much ado to pick out places where Men and the Cattle which must attend them, may subsist, nor could that suffice without the aid of the Cornlands of the Don, which are more inviting than has been observ'd by y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants hitherto, tho' one would think a Law well observ'd till within 60 or less years had forbid the rearing timber for any use beyond the Dee, as effectually as Nature has excluded Agriculture from Deeside. This created a connection indeed but a laborious, a pitifull one, nay a dependence, but now the case is altering, and there are men of Spirit forcing Husbandry on Dee side, and as we have Hills and Heaths, Your Tenant at Cameron's worthy father led the way, and even I shall soon have above 400 Acres of Wood growing for Fewel and other necessary Uses, and Sheltering my fields and my Tenant's fields from the rough blasts which have ever pinched our men, our Cattle our Corns and our grass. The Spirit Spreads, and the Conse-

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quences will be good and great. Industry will employ the Bodies of Men whom it will support, and withdraw their minds from those aims to benefit themselves by the Losses of others which are destructive to Individuals, their neighbours and their Country, which yet have occupy'd and rack'd the wits of a sharp set of men capable of better things, had not the Countenance and Influence of a few to whom their Idleness and their Poverty render'd them ready Tools, even made them take a pride in the prostitution, Habit and Company naturaliz'd them to that Poverty which constituted their slavish attachment. Hence Clanship in the Highlands, and Lordship in the Lowlands; which made a sensible man, above a Century ago (Gordon of Fechill) say, that 'Noblemen and Muck-fail were the ruin of Scotland.'

Agriculture could never have dawn'd in Scotland, had its Privy Council subsisted, nor would England have ever been improv'd had not Henry y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> pav'd the way, by admitting the transference of Property, as y<sup>e</sup> Fruits of Industry encouraged and secured.

*We* have also been bless'd with Men of Rank and Fortune who have labour'd to introduce Agriculture and Arts usefull to Society, with a merited success suited to their liberal minds, not cramp'd by Pride, not enervated by Dissipation.

I'm very happy in the hope that you will find inducement to visit both y<sup>e</sup> Dee and the Don, and that your goodness of Heart, and chearfull disposition will tend and co-operate to detain you agreeably among us when you have the courage to pass y<sup>e</sup> Grampians; be it so. Yet let me tell you Your Rhubarb is not yet sprung tho' in the best soil and best season, tho' some former Plants are vigorous. *Nous attendons.*" &c., &c.

"Your Sincere Friend and

affectionate humble servant

JOHN FORBES LEITH."

Letters from all parts came to Sir Alexander asking for his advice on the method of growing Rhubarb, shewing the interest taken in this new and now important branch of commerce. The Duke of Atholl had grown it for some years, but of an inferior quality, until he received some of Sir Alexander's seeds. A few examples of these appeals are given.

“MY DEAR SIR ALEXANDER

You are always doing good. Amongst other things I observe you have introduced into this country and brought to perfection Indian Rhubarb. I have half-a-dozen plants of it, indeed very ill placed, that are about five or six years old.

As they are too thick together, I intend taking up two or three of them this season. They have already seeded this year—May I beg the favour to know at what time I should take them up, and when I have taken them up if I may not cut them in pieces, and put holes through the pieces and dry them at the Fire or in a Barn.

I beg pardon for giving you this trouble and have the honour to be, with the greatest esteem and truth, Y<sup>rs</sup> &c. LAUDERDALE.”

“Hatton 7th July 1777

The Bishop of Oxford, Dr Lowth, writes

“I am extremely obliged to you for the curious present of the true Rhubarb seeds. To give them the better chance of succeeding, I divided them into 3 parts, one of w<sup>h</sup> I gave to a gentleman residing near London whose care I can depend upon, the 2<sup>nd</sup> I sent to the Professor of Botany at Oxford to be raised in the Botany Garden belonging to the University; the 3<sup>rd</sup> to my Gardiner, to be raised in my own Garden at Cuddesdon.”

“Edin<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> August 1778

Lord Kames<sup>1</sup> longs to know how Sir Alex. Dick his Lady and family are. In his late excursion he met a gentleman who is cultivating Rhubarb; but in a measure groping in the dark, being uncertain about the time of raising the roots and still more about the method of drying. Lord Kames trusting to Sir Alex’s good nature and his zeal for improvements, promised his English acquaintance satisfaction on these points, and he is sure his friend Sir Alexander will not leave him in the lurch. Breakfast is always on the board a little after 9.”

The following characteristic letter, which was written in the Spring of the same year, may be suitably introduced here.

<sup>1</sup> Lord Kames, born 1696, died 1782, was a distinguished judge, metaphysician and agriculturist, and a voluminous writer.



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To Sir Alexander Dick, Baronet at Prestonfield.

"London 30 April 1778

MY DEAR SIR ALEXANDER

With most unexpected pleasure was I favoured, when your kind and pleasant letter arrived, I owed you many thanks; and you confer more benefits. Your friend the Bishop of Oxford received me very courteously. Mrs Strange is well, and rattles away with as much vivacity as ever. I have only met Dr Armstrong in the street; but I intend to call on him very soon. He was happy to hear of you *en passant*. I am much entertained with your rural triumph over *us men of London*. I know not but to the pure natural mind the pleasures and beauties of the country are superior to those of a City. But I have habits far different from those of pure nature. Besides, may it not be maintained that a mind in the state that mine is, is more civilized?

A thousand thanks to you and Lady Dick, and Miss Dick, for your care of my valuable spouse. She writes me a full account of your goodness to her. Pray do not let her go from you. I am quite happy to think she is at Prestonfield.

It is somewhat uncertain how soon I may be home. My wife will explain to you how. But to own the truth to you, my Dear Sir, I am really unhappy in being separated from my *Minerva* as you used to say.

You will excuse the shortness of my Epistle. It shall be amply made up to you by a Recital, when we meet.

My kindest compliments to all at Prestonfield. I wish to find my wife there; but I fancy she will be gone to town, and we shall come out together to *rusticate*, soon after my arrival.

I am ever Your much obliged and affectionate friend

JAMES BOSWELL.

The Correspondence is again taken up by Consul Sir John Dick, who writes from Florence on the 6th August 1776 to announce that the King<sup>1</sup> has consented to his resigning his post at Leghorn. He says

"We shall stay here some weeks yet until Lady Cowper is brought to Bed. Sir Horace<sup>2</sup> is to represent Lady Cowper My Lords Mother-in-law and in case the Child is a Boy I am to represent Lord Spencer.

<sup>1</sup> George III.

<sup>2</sup> Mann.



## The Duke of Gloucester's Invitation 263

When this ceremony is over we shall return to Leghorn in order to settle our matters there which I fear will employ us for some months. We then mean to pass the winter at Rome as the Duke of Gloucester has been so good as to press our going there to him."

For a time Sir John seems to have adhered to his decision of taking a complete rest from public life, as in a letter dated from Harley Street 5th May 1780, he says

"I cannot conceal from you that about a month ago when Lord North had in contemplation his Bill for the Commission of Accounts, his Lordship made me the offer of being the head of the Commission . . . I declined it. His Lordship was pleased to say that he was sorry for it, that he did not mean it as conferring a Favor on me, but that if I had accepted it I should have conferred a Favor on Him. Future Honors were held out to me but nothing could tempt me to relinquish my present tranquil situation—which I hope you will approve of."



## Chapter XVII.

Lord Balcarras' escape—Sir John Douglas in difficulties—Mr James Boswell's letter—the Duke of Queensbury's death—Bishop of London's letter—Paul Jones' Squadron—Bozzy's Jaunt—Chincough and Influenza—Admiral Rodney's Victory—Lord Balcarras' Novel with Miss Hacket—The Gordon Riots.

[1777—1780]



## Chapter XVII.

FOR news of the day we must again have recourse to Sir Alexander's Notes, with which are interspersed a few letters from Mr James Boswell, and Dr Lowth, Bishop of London, bearing upon matters alluded to in the Memoranda.

*March 27, 1777.*—"Good news last post from Gen<sup>r</sup> Howe dated 12 Feb<sup>r</sup> from N. York. Sir Wm. Erskine having w<sup>t</sup> the 42 reg<sup>t</sup> old Highlanders defeated a large body of Rebels in y<sup>e</sup> Jerseys and killed 3 or 400. and Gov<sup>r</sup> Tryon getting 800 of the people to enlist of y<sup>e</sup> county he commands to take arms, and 5000 to swear allegiance. Washington is declared Dictator for 6 months about 200 vessels taken since last advices by our Fleet from the Rebels by a Stratagem.

"March ended Ruff and cold, mild at last.

*July 18.*—"Last week brought the very bad news of dear Sir Basil Keith's death y<sup>e</sup> 15 June. We and his sisters and his Aunt Stirling here are grievously affected waiting for letters daily.

*Sept. 1.*—"Last week on Friday Baron Rutherford Admiral Greig<sup>1</sup> and his Lady dined here.

"A letter from Lady Balcarras at London with an account of Lord Balcarras'<sup>2</sup> wonderful escape at the victory of General Burgoine at Ticonderago. He had ten balls pass thro' his cloathes, three past otherwise, two on his Fusee, and one broke a flint in his pocket, and afterwards gave my Lord a flesh wound, not deep, in his left thigh. A most wonderful escape.

"The great Victory over the Rebels confirmed by y<sup>e</sup> Gazette and the Kirk bells rang.

*Oct. 2.*—Dined with Admiral Greig on Invitation at Fortune's (the

<sup>1</sup> Admiral Greig had a high position in the Russian Navy.

<sup>2</sup> Alexander sixth Earl of Balcarras, born in 1752, became a general in the army, and commanded at Jamaica in the Maroon Rebellion.



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leading Tavern) on the Empress of Russia's birthday. 30 covers. The Magistrates and many noblemen and gentlemen present.

*October* .—"Dined w<sup>t</sup> Lord and Lady Hopeton at Dr Hope's and entered into an Association about the curing and sale of the true Rhubarb of our gardens.

*Nov. 4.*—"By express from Caprington Castle my dear Brother Sir John Cuninghame of Caprington died at 10.30 P.M. after supper suddenly, sitting in his chair, before that chearfull with his family his wife Lady Betty and her sister Lady Francis<sup>1</sup> and his eldest son William. His father and mine Sir William and his brother and mine Sir Wm. Dick and our sister Lady Dalrymple all went off suddenly in the same manner. A kind of death the most to be wished for.

*Decr. 1.*—"Got 9½ guineas for 9½ lbs. of my true rhubarb which grew in my garden from Mr Moncrieff, Druggist in Edr. it is excellent of its kind and of great repute.

*Decr. 31.*—"Ended this year agreeably and merrily with some friends. On the 24th being Xmas Eve Lord Advocate called and informed us all sitting by a warm fireside that His Majesty by the Lords of the Treasury had ordered an annuity of £100 to my 2 eldest daughters Janet and Ann for their lives. The grant taking its rise from the old original claim on the Orkneys of 100,000 merks Scots lent to the Earl of Morton 100 years agoe and for which £132 was paid the heirs of Sir Andrew Dick—of whom my two daughters, by their mother my first wife, are the only direct heirs in life.

*Jan. 16, 1778.*—Sir J. Douglas in the Cannongate jail for debt.<sup>2</sup>

*March* .—"The Ministry all in the Dumps in London a French war threatened but by our letters lately from Paris no word of it."

Referring to the constant scares of war with France, Mr Thomas Andrew Strange<sup>3</sup> writing from Paris in July 1779, says

"As this is to pass to you by a private hand, you will perhaps expect that it shall teem with political news; that it shall make you acquainted with the designs of ministers and the destruction of fleets and armies, and that by it, you may be able to estimate the danger of Britain, and anticipate its fate.

But he must have lived few days in Paris at a time like this, with little observation, who has not discovered in that period that the policy of this

<sup>1</sup> Montgomerie.

<sup>2</sup> Ruined in the Stuart Cause 1745.

<sup>3</sup> Son of Sir R. Strange.

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country is *secret* as it is *base*; and I often wonder to see the British flying away, day by day, for fear of an edict of their expulsion from a place where as there is nothing to hear, there is nothing to tell, and where therefore, their tranquility should be defended rather than disturbed, because their absence from their own country is always some abstraction from its force, while their residence in that of their enemies affords them no opportunity of assisting their friends. That something serious, however and important is intended, may be easily collected; it is no very pleasing sight to a Briton passing at this time along the road to Paris to behold the inundation of armed men that are now pouring down to Dunkirk and the expedition with which they are building transports and fitting out a variety of other vessels in order to scour the seas, and intercept all succour between America and England."

*March 22.*—"My Georgic about 240 lines finished, several here have read and approved.

*July 4.*—"James Boswell and the doctor his uncle and Dr Rutherford dined here.

*August 23.*—"From the 19 July to this 23d August had a good deal of uneasiness from my catarrh and asthma and phlegm continue the Pitch Plasters with benefit but from nothing more than great temperance and riding out airing in the chaise every forenoon.

*Sept. 27.*—"Last week was very remarkable here by the mutiny of 500 of Seaforth's Highland Regiment, mostly the Macraus who would not embark as required for Guernsey, and next to the E. Indies. On Tuesday evening last they went in an armed body from Leith to the top of Arthur's Seat and remained there armed, and placed guards till Friday, night and day patrolling till by the lenity and wisdom of Sir Adolphus Oughton the Commander in Chief and the assistance of the Duke of Buccleuch and Lord Dunmore they were pacified on terms and pay'd their arrears etc. but by no means to go to the E. Indies. Their officers were much complained of and a Court of Enquiry on Saturday taken to see to the Cause of the Complaints against them.

"James Boswell here twice this week.

*Oct. 4.*—"The Highland 500 men of Seaforth's Regiment who mutined and went up to the Top of Arthur's Seat are amicably brot down and this last week are shipt aboard the transports for the south to Island of Guernsey they say, but some of the transports being hurt by the last gale, they are not yet sailed till repaired.

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*Oct.* 18.—“Lord Advocate’s Lady bad behaviour come abroad, and the Divorce is going on in form.<sup>1</sup>

*Oct.* 23.—“My birthday being now in my 76th year.

*Oct.* 25.—“A swan killed by a fox the day before the storm on my Loch.

“Count Carberri has sent a folio with curious account of the vast stone of the granite kind being moved from a morass to Petersburg it weighed 3000 tons, to be the Pedestal to the Statue of Peter the Great there, by the present Empress’s orders and Count Carberri’s skill.

*Nov.* 1.—“Lord Howe came home from N. York in 28 days and a long Gazette before him of the French Fleet leaving Rhode Island and the Rebels also doing the same. They lost 70 vessels, Admiral Kepel returned to Spithead.

“The Duke of Queensbury died some days agoe at London of an inflammation and after gangrene in his leg, said to have been owing to an accident of a hurt on his shin going into his coach. The King had pay’d him a visit at Amesbury in the neighbourhood of the Camp at Salisbury a few days before. Lord March succeeds to the title of Duke. Their relation is that of cousin by the male side. How he has left his great personal estate after Lord March is not certain for if Lord March don’t marry and have sons then Sir John Douglas of Kilhead and his male issue are heirs to the title of Marquis or Earl Queensbury only, being come off where that title prevailed.”

This eventually happened. William, Lord March, who succeeded as fourth and last Duke of Queensbury, was a leader of fashion, and well known on the turf as “Old Q. ;” he was “at that time an oldish quite worn-out man, not given the least disposition to matrimony.”

As his memoirs have recently been published, the following extract from Sir Alexander’s Memoranda is apropos.

“The Duke, a little before his death, having a warm attachment to my nephew Sir William (Sir John Douglas’ son), whom he sincerely loved

<sup>1</sup> Lord Advocate Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville, married in July 1765 Elizabeth daughter and heiress of David Rennie of Melville Castle. That marriage having been dissolved in 1778, he married in April 1793, Lady Jane Hope, daughter of John, second Earl of Hopetoun—Omond’s *Lord Advocates of Scotland*.

from his proper behaviour to him while in Parliament, and considering that he had five Boys to his sons and three Daughters to provide for, he left him £16,000 in money for their behalf; doubting it is presumed the Generosity of the Earl of March, who was the first to succeed to himself, which was very well judged, for upon the worthy Duke's death, which happened five or six years ago, this new unkindly and ungenerous Duke of Queensberry refusing to pay the money pretending that the late Duke had not lived a sufficient time to complete in all the forms the gift of so large a sum, whereupon my nephew considering maturely and informing me that one of his sons was called after me; he had my approbation to prosecute the Duke before the Court of Session for the payment of the £16,000—and the interest from the late Duke's death, which the Court of Session sustain'd unanimously, whereupon this Duke appealed it to the House of Peers, and to his great astonishment that Court likewise approved of the Decision of the Court of Session and required him to make payment in terms of the same, which with the interest came to about £20,000 sterling, of which my nephew Sir William gave me immediate notice; the overflowings of joy upon that occasion (Sir William being then under a fit of gout) in a few days after he got the news he died most suddenly without a groan of an appoplexy, I suppose from the bursting of some vessel while he was diverting himself with his children, whom he loved most affectionately. He was not much past fifty when he died, to the great grief of his excellent wife, his numerous fine family and no less numerous relations, and particularly those of myself and my family here, who had the greatest affection and esteem for him.

*Nov. 15.* — "I finished my first Book British Georgick after a year's work fully, it being of 500 and upward lines, which is the extent of Virgil's First Georgick. This after much blotting read yesterday to the approbation of Mr James Boswell and some other friends."

*Nov. 22.* — "News came from my nephew, now Sir William Douglas, of his father Sir John's death at Drumlanrig by a fall after the Duke of Queensberry's Burial."

*Nov. 29.* — "Lord Advocate divorced last week from his criminal wife, and she married soon after to the man who caused it, a vile scandalous affair on her part and his, who is now saddled with her and will probably soon suffer by her."

*Dec. 6.* — "Mr James Boswall, Mr Christian, and Dr Gregory, &c., &c., dined here yesterday. King's Speech all for War Still. Lent J. Boswall



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Arthur's Seat, a Poem. Got back my journey to Italy from him. My first book *Brittish Georgic* was finished, gave J. Boswell the last few lines on the plantations at Auchenleck, and some rhymes dedicated to himself, with which he was much pleased."

This letter from Mr Boswell is addressed to Sir Alex. Dick, Bart., "with Arthur's Seat and a newspaper," and bears no date.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I most sincerely wish you joy of the happy concurrence of circumstances in favour of William.<sup>1</sup> The Duke of Gloucester to whom Sir John Dick presented me is I really think, a man above common, and I hope William shall have the praise *principibus*.

I was very sorry that indisposition kept me from you last Saturday. I make your Archy an *Atlas*; for I make him carry you out *Arthurs Seat* which you kindly lent me. Your alteration of Gillierauray is good and shall be marked

Ever yours, J. B.

*Feb 2 1779.*—"On Tuesday last at night a violent and unruly mob burnt the Roman Catholic Chapel w<sup>h</sup> stood by itself on the west side of Leith Wynd to the ground, several rioters about 15 or 20 put up in the Castel as they were intending more mischief and attack the Principal Dr Robertson and Roman Catholic persons and houses, but when the Dragoons came in for the relief of the town they dispersed.

"Glasgow Riot burning &c Catholic houses.

*14 March.*—The transports and Convoys arrived in Leith Road and the troops for America are to embark and sail w<sup>t</sup> first fair wind.

Mr Boswell set out for London. He got a letter from me to the Bishop of London my old acquaintance Dr Lowth."

The Bishop writes :—

London House

May 19 1779

"DEAR SIR

I had the favour of both your letters by Mr Robertson<sup>2</sup> and by Mr Boswell.

I had the honour of seeing Mr Boswell who put into my hands your papers.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Alexander's eldest son.

<sup>2</sup> The Historian.



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I told Mr Boswell that I had at that time very little leisure to look into them, but I understood that he would make a considerable stay in town. Mr Boswell did me the honour lately to call upon me again. I soon after endeavoured to wait upon him with your papers in my hand, but he was gone out of town. . . . I have read with much pleasure your *Georgic*; in which there is a great deal of good matter and much agreeable description and digression. I consider it as what you designed it for, a Domestic Poem; in which your Muse chuses to appear, as she may properly do rather in *dishabille*. . . .

I am much obliged to you for your kind expressions in regard to my Family. My last loss<sup>1</sup> is inexpressible. Few Fathers have had such a son to lose. He was one of the most amiable and most valuable young men of his age . . . he was my constant companion and my bosom friend, willing and able to assist me in everything. I feel myself every day more in want of his assistance. . . . Mrs Lowth and my daughters join with me in Comp<sup>ts</sup> and best wishes to Lady Dick etc etc.

R. London.

*April 4.*—"This day Easter Sunday visited w<sup>t</sup> my eldest son Willie the Duke of Buccleuch and breakfasted with him and the Dutchess, introduced Willie and he is invited to be of his party at hunting in the season. Met in the Park French officers Prisoners and spoke French with them.

"They are Normans from Havre de Grace.

*July 10.*—"Attended the Meeting called by the Lord Advocate and Sheriff, of the Heritors of our County of Midlothian on the alarming crisis of the fleets of the Bourbon Family joined, and ours to meet their Shippes w<sup>t</sup> inferior number, and proposing subscriptions. I payd in 10 guineas.

*July 18.*—"Got 3 excellent letters of good fortune to my eldest son Willie fr L<sup>d</sup> Balcarres Sir John Dick and Allan Ramsay relating to His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester offering my son on a purchase 5 steps as an ensign in his First Reg<sup>t</sup> of Foot Guards and a years absence for his education. And that Sir John Dick will as a Father look after his morals in London, in that most luxurious debauched city.

*August 8.*—"Remitted £900 ster. by Sir John Dick's order on my eldest son Williams accompt to pay for his commission in y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>mt</sup> of Foot Guards commanded by the Duke of Gloucester.

"My son Willie wore his cockade and went to see the tryal of the

<sup>1</sup> A previous letter mentions the loss of a daughter.

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Carronaders and Canon w<sup>t</sup> Sir Adol Oughton and Cap<sup>t</sup> Fraser Chief Engineer.

*September 5.*—"Great scarcity of ready money all over England, especially at London. The government giving 8% for money for the supplies. One great cause the war, another cattle no price. Sheep very low, wool dog cheap, cloth trade little demand."

The astrological knowledge of the period is shewn by the following note taken by Sir Alexander from "Dr Stewart's late Work, 1763."

"The sunn's distance from our earth is about 12 millions of English measured miles, but some less. The moon's distance from our earth only about y<sup>e</sup> 48 part of the sun's distance from us, or about 250 thousand miles. but some less. The diameter of the sun is about a million of the same English miles, but some more. The diameter of the moon only about one thousand English miles and but 87 more.

"In gross computation for memory in round numbers."<sup>1</sup>

*September 19.*—"A little squadron of French ships appeared on our Frith of Forth and came opposite to Leith Northside of Inch Keith, but as yet have committed no hostilities of any kind, except capture of Ships at the Mouth of the Frith, but not yet known who they are.

"Went with Mr Campbell our guest to see the noble view from Clermiston Hill North side and I discovered the French Ships off Dunbar.

"Expresses are sent to Government &c. &c. and 3 battaries of guns are erected for the safety of Leith and the Shipping.

*September 26.*—"The French Ships of force all went off from the Firth without doing any damage.

"Peace much spoken of and the giving up America.

*Oct. 3.*—"Paul Jones<sup>2</sup> little Squadron w<sup>h</sup> had been in the Frith of Forth and alarmed us lately tho' doing no harm here went out to meet the Baltick Fleet, which he did and was attacked by a 40 gun ship of war the Serapis, and a 20 gun Frigate which being the convoy kept the Bonne Homme of 40 guns in play till all the Fleet escapt w<sup>h</sup> they did, but

<sup>1</sup> Results of American observations of the Transit of Venus 1882, published in the Times of 5th Nov. 1888.

The mean distance of Earth from Sun is about 92,385,000 statute miles.  
(Probable error not more than 130,000 miles).

<sup>2</sup> The notorious Paul Jones began life as a Serving Man to a Scottish Nobleman.

Jones after hard work took the 2 ships of war the Convoy, and has indeavoured tho' much disabled to get off—but near twenty vessels of war of different sizes were gone after Jones and hope to take him and his Prizes.

“The Prudent a 64 Ship of War Cap<sup>t</sup> Burnet arrived last and some Frigates to defend the Forth and its Coasts.

*Oct. 10.*—“The disagreeable mutiny of the West Fencibles happened on the 8 at the Castle and several whipt severely at Leith.

*Oct. 23.*—“Being my birthday had some friends to dine with me—My 76<sup>th</sup> year is now out.

“Though we have had no apples in my garden this year, yet to-day we had for the last time at table excellent melons, and from the wall of the Collonade without art many bunches of ripe white water grapes and many Bushels full of half ripe for tarts for some weeks past.”

It is worthy of note that nectarines, peaches, figs, grapes and melons all ripened in the outer air then without glass, while none of them come to maturity in the same garden now without forcing.

*Nov. 15.*—“Mr Boswell and Dr Young and their ladies and Mr Daniel f<sup>r</sup> Somersetshire all dined here. There is the best information of a General distemper or like it prevailing in the Combined Fleets at Brest.

“Eight thousand, Thos. Butter says were buried there lately and still prevails infectious. Began on the dirty Spanish Ships w<sup>h</sup> were crowded with men.

*Nov. 20.*—“An Influenza w<sup>t</sup> feverish cold, cough and sore throats prevails in Edin<sup>r</sup> more than in the country all here at Prestonfield affected.”

Bozzy's marriage, and his closer application to legal work kept him busy in Edinburgh for some time; but that he had again contrived an excuse for one of his much loved jaunts to the Metropolis is shewn in the following letter, written a month before the dinner mentioned in the note of Nov. 15th, when doubtless they were all made merry by “the inundation of entertainment” promised therein.

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"London 15th Oct 1779

MY DEAR AND EXCELLENT FRIEND

I have had an admirable jaunt. But such is the hurry in which this great metropolis unavoidably engages me, that I really cannot write to you as I could wish. As I am soon to be home again, you shall have an inundation of entertainment when I have the happiness to meet you at Prestonfield. But in the meantime I cannot but indulge the pleasure of telling you with great truth that I am exceedingly pleased with my young friend William.<sup>1</sup>

The very morning after my arrival I surprised him with a visit; and I have seen him a great deal. He has been so good as to accompany me in my long morning walks more than once.

I have presented him to General Paoli<sup>2</sup> Lord Mountstuart and Dr Johnson.

Yesterday he dined at the General's in company with Dr Johnson.

He looks vastly well in his regimentals, and seems to have such a prudent rational way of thinking, that I trust he will not be corrupted in this town of temptations. I have not failed from time to time to throw into his mind some good counsels; and I rejoice to observe that he has an affectionate regard for me.

Adieu my dear Sir till we meet. Pray give my best compliments to Lady Dick and all your amiable young family.—I ever am etc.

JAMES BOSWALL.

The advice referred to as given to his young friend Willie Dick was no doubt excellent, but it does not seem to have occurred to Mr Boswell that example would have been better than precept. So completely did he believe in himself, and such was his earnestness for the moment, that he was doubtless fully convinced that he had scattered much good seed.

That Sir Alexander appreciated his good intentions is evident from his again being invited to dine.

<sup>1</sup> Ensign Dick, 1st Batt. Foot Guards.

<sup>2</sup> General Paoli was a Corsican General who came to Scotland with the Polish Ambassador Count Bevinski, Bozzy paid them assiduous attention, conducting them about personally. His work on Corsica is supplemented by an account of the General.



*Nov. 27.*—"Chincough and Influenza still severe here. Mr James and Mrs Boswell dined here.

*Nov. 19.*—"I lent Professor Fergusson my Georgick to peruse and to Mr J. Boswell my Biography to animadvert upon.

*1780 January 2.*—"The news of peace with Ireland restored. The Earl of Caithness my cousin buried at Roslin Chapel some days agoe I attended my place the 2nd on the right of the Bearers.

*January 9.*—"All last week fine clear frost and the finest ice on my Loch has been seen for many years and great numbers skating.

*January 16.*—"Last Thursday night the Therm at Dr Hope's Physic Gardens at 6° the lowest known these many years past, perhaps only in 1740 the great winter.

"Lady Di Middleton died last week. The Duke of Montagu and Lord Dalkeith the child his grandson set out for London.

*January 23.*—"A French Prize with Tobacco 250 Hds came into Leith Road the men escapt.

"Thomas Rigg of Morton my cousin died, said to be worth 70,000£ Ster. A sordid miser, of small merit besides, my health did not permit me to attend his Burial nor Lady Di Middleton who were both buried in Enterkins Tomb Grey Friars Churchyard. They hated each other while alive and are buried next each other when dead 100,000£ Ster goes to their heirs.

*Feb. 5.*—"On Saturday last Mr James Boswell and Mr Johnson dined here.

*Feb. 20.*—"The great and good news arrived confirmed of the several naval advantages over the Spaniards by Admiral Rodney. Illuminations, bell ringing and guns in Castle firing middle last week.

*March 5.*—"Complete thaw after the long severe frost and ice but little snow, in the 1740 the snow was deep and lay longer. All the thick ice of my Loch melted in a few days.

"The confirmation of the great news of Rodney's victory over the Spanish Fleet arrived from himself, and that he has the Admiral Don Langare Prisoner and 5 fine ships of the line captured and transports and stores &c. &c.

*March 12.*—"Other pieces of great news last week from Admiral Digby of a French 64 Ship of War and 3 transports taken at sea w<sup>t</sup> 60 odd thousand pounds value in cash.

*March 26.*—"A French 40 gun Ship of War taken in the Channel. Too



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much altercation in both Houses of Parl<sup>t</sup> Lord North however always comes off tho' with a small majority and none yet with much honour.

*April 23.*—"Mr Wilson's Ball and my little son Roby<sup>1</sup> 7 years old began it w<sup>t</sup> a Daughter of the Duke of Buccleugh of same age.

*April 30.*—"The great embarrassing affair of Lord Balcarras and Miss Hacket happened then and great relief from Miss Ann Keith's prudent behaviour.

"Lady Balcarras and Lady Eliz came in 3 days from London.

*May 7.*—"Lord Balcarras' novel w<sup>t</sup> Miss Hacket ended well. Too long to narrate now. He set out for London last week and is to marry his cousin Miss Betty Dalrymple my grand niece, my nephew Charles Dalrymple's child, heiress to Sir Roger Bradshaw's fine estate in Lancashire.<sup>2</sup> She is worth in land and money near £80,000 and is of age next July, tho' Lady Bradshaw liferents the land aged 76 years old. This will put Lord Balcarras that excellent young man into fine circumstances which the oyr party would have totally ruin'd. How great and wise a part my niece Miss Anny Keith had in all this transaction to bring it out well! Lady Balcarras and Lady Eliz her daughter and Cap<sup>t</sup> Butler and Jamie Norris (now both of the Inflexible 64 gun Man of War) all here in Family now at Prestonfield.

*June 18.*—"All last week and before a day or two a most dreadfull riot<sup>3</sup> at London and Westminster as in the papers and not quelled as by Willie's letter dated from the Sardinian Ambassadors House he was particularly ordered to protect w<sup>t</sup> 62 of the Footguards, and by General Amherst's order to fire as his discretion would direct him. Martial Law he says made them all quiet."<sup>4</sup>

*June 25.*—"King's speech to His Parliament on the Outrages very proper last week. Damadges said to be a million sterling to be paid by the Public to the Foreign Ministers and the other sufferers of private and public sort. A Riot at Bath and anoy<sup>r</sup> at Hull and damadge done.

*July 10.*—"This day Monday Mrs Sterling and the 2 Miss Keiths came to stay here for some months.

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards Sir Robert Keith Dick Cunyngham, Bart.

<sup>2</sup> Haigh Hall, now in possession of the Earl of Crawford.

<sup>3</sup> The Gordon Riots.

<sup>4</sup> Ensign Dick's age was seventeen and a half. He had been nine months in the service.

Miss Anne Keith seem to have been the most sprightly of the sisters and went most out into the world. It was from this lady, Miss Anne, that Sir Walter Scott got many of his tales.<sup>1</sup>

*July 23.*—"Got my dear son Willie's excellent letter of his offered promotion to be Adjutant in one of the 3 Battalions 1<sup>st</sup> Reg. Foot Guards. His age only 17½<sup>2</sup> but thot fit by the whole officers and the General.

*September 10.*—"Electioneering over all counties and Burrows.

*September 17.*—"The trick played Gen<sup>r</sup> Skeene by Lady Wallace was truly laughable—to detain him lockt up from Dumbartonshire Election to serve Lord Fred Campbell who however broke Prison and Lord Fred was elected.

<sup>1</sup> Many an ancient Scottish legend did Sir Walter Scott glean from Annie Keith—"D'ye think I dinna ken my ain groats amang ither folks kail?" was a phrase she often playfully used in vindication of the certainty she always expressed of his identity with the unknown Author of *Waverley*.—*Lives of the Lindsays*.

<sup>2</sup> With 10 months' service.



## Chapter XVIII.

Letters from Mount Clare—The County Election—A Prodigious grand sight—The Balcarras family—Lady Elizabeth Lindsay's Letters and Rhymes.

[1780-1782.]





## Chapter XVIII.

DURING these latter years a steady correspondence had been maintained between Sir John and Sir Alexander Dick, chiefly on matters of family interest, and therefore not suitable for introduction into this volume. Sir John had purchased a house in the vicinity of Roehampton, where all his leisure time was spent. Here Lady Dick had her first taste of country life in England, and admits that feeding the "fowls" was her only accomplishment.

Sir John, on his part, immediately proceeded to lay out and beautify the grounds, planting trees, shrubs, etc., and he frequently mentions his regret at being so closely tied to the War Office, where the pressure of work was for a time so great as to preclude even an hour's visit to "Mount Clare his Villa in the Country," to superintend the improvements. These were so extensive as to employ twenty men at a time.

Mount Clare had previously belonged to, and was built by Mrs Clive, a cousin to the Lord Clive who built Clairmount near Esher,<sup>1</sup> and she named it Mount Clare out of compliment to him. It was then much more in the Country than now, and from remarks made from time to time in the letters, the road to London appears to have been most indifferent, so much so that it was not convenient as a residence after the summer was over.

The following letter from Lady Dick to her cousin and name-

<sup>1</sup> Now the residence of H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany.

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sake at Prestonfield, gives her first impressions of the place, and conveys news of the young Adjutant to his Mother.

After this, Sir Alexander's notes continue to supply the current events, interspersed with letters and verses from Lady Elizabeth Lindsay, afterwards Countess of Hardwick, to her cousin and confidant Miss Dick.

Mount Clare 30 October 1780

MY DEAR MADAM

Your Ladyships kind Letter gave us a most sensible pleasure, as it brought with it, the very agreeable news of yours and good Sir Alexanders and the rest of your good Familys Health, which we shall allways be rejoiced to hear, as to your young soldier, I hope your Ladyship will make your self quite at ease about him, for we dont doubt but he will be a comfort to you, and an Honor to your Family, I do not believe that any young man can behave better than he does, his Colonel gives him a great Character, we have but one fault to find, which we endeavour to rectify, that is, bashfulness, or rather shyness for company, for that properly taken is no bad school, but we do not despair of correcting him in it, it is a fault of the right side, in short, you may depend on every friendly attention etc etc. How good your Ladyship is in wishing us nearer to compare notes, I sincerely wish it for my own sake, but not for yours, for I should be a very troublesome neighbour in asking to many Impertinent Questions, as no one is more ignorant than my self in every thing that regards the country, for I only know how to feed the fowls, and that I doo some times, so you see we should be good neighbours in the maine point for we should never quarrel about who conducted their Farm best.

Now dear Madam give me leave to return my sincere thanks for the very kind present you have been so good as to send us of your most excellent Home made sweetmeats which are the best I ever tasted. We are still in the Country, Sir John is very Busy making great alterations in the little place he has bought, Planting shrubs fruit trees &c. &c. but I am afraid the bad weather will send us to town. Sir John Joyns with me in most affect<sup>te</sup> comp<sup>ts</sup> etc etc.

Your Ladyships Most obliged and affect<sup>te</sup> servant

ANN DICK.

## Lord George Gordon's Acquittal 285

We now glean from Sir Alexander's Diary.

*Oct 1.*—"On the 22 last month our County Election held and I was unanimously chosen Preces, Mr Newbiggin Clerk, Lord Advocate was unanimously chosen Member of Parliament for our County and I moved thanks to him for his former conduct. I dined w<sup>t</sup> above 100 at table that day and sat by Lord President his brother, all was harmony and good humour and mirth: not so the City of Edinburgh.

*Nov 5.*—"Gunpowder Treason day Canons fire at 12.

*Nov 27.*—"The great protuberance of Arthurs Seat Hill on the West Side like the Giants Causeway came tumbling down several hundred cartloads in evening, the effect of the storms and wet after frost.

1781 11 *Feb.*—"By post a letter of Sir John Dick confirming the bad news of his Lady's death.

"His grief is extreme. 35 years together in Love and Harmony etc."

A reference to May 27th of this Diary will indicate the depth of his grief.

"By last nights post a confirmation of Lord George Gordon's acquital. Foolish but great Illuminations at Ed<sup>r</sup> on Tuesday evening.

*Feb 25.*—"A man 8 feet high arrived in Edin<sup>r</sup> and we all went to see him, he is but 21 years old, mother Scots, father Irish, and born near Carrickfergus.

*March 4.*—"Crocus appear very gay and full, next the Hypatica purplish Flowers in very warm spots of the garden. It is an observation I mentioned to Dr Hope that after the long darkness of Winter and the short visit of the sun throw the day, then the snowdrop and white flowers arrive first from the earth, then succeed the yellow flowers as the Crocus, flowers of higher tincture next, purplish as the Hypatica, next the violets, afterwards come the richer red flowers and variegated as the Tulips without smell, succeeded by the rich smelling roses white first in June, next the scarlet and red of all sorts. This succession deserves farther notice, from the flowers white arriving in darkness, as light and rays of the sun increase all colours richer and flowers of fine smells come on.

"All the Diversions of Ed<sup>r</sup> numerous and well attended, the place being full.

*May 27.*—"News came from Willie that Sir John Dick is to be married to Miss Clavering next October.

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*June 12.*—"The East Coast of Scotland and ye Frith much alarmed w<sup>t</sup> a Dutch Fleet. Admiral Parker w<sup>t</sup> several ships of the Line to come to our Relief as fast as the wind will allow them.

*June 24.*—"The great convoy and the Jamaica Fleet having come north arrived a few days agoe 50 sail w<sup>t</sup> war ships, 10 sail and a war ship a few days after, in the Road now near 450 sail in all."

"A prodigious grand sight.

*June 27.*—"On Wednesday 27 early in the morning the wind changed from E. to S.W. and Adm Parker gave signal for the whole Fleet sailing for the Baltic. The gale was full and in the afternoon w<sup>t</sup> the tide they sailed down by the north side of Inch Keith, 400 sail a very noble and uncommon sight in this or any part of the Globe. I saw them well at 5 o'clock afternoon from the Castle Hill. The Jamaica Fleet 60 and odd sail remain till they are victualled and watered and many sick refreshed.

*July 15.*—"J. Boswell and family dined here, several reviews lent him also 1 vol Paris descriptions also 1 vol *Chansons françois* to Miss Peg Trotter Charles Lindsay arrived and stays here<sup>1</sup>

*July 29.*—"Races last week<sup>2</sup> very fine weather and good sport.

*Aug. 5.*—"Made 10 days agoe a Hogshead and a half of white curran wine in 6 hours of a morning.

*August 12.*—"Received a most material letter from Sir John Dick, informing us of the marriage of his w<sup>t</sup> Miss Clavering being for many cogent and substantial reasons not to take place. I wrote immediately by post to express my perfect satisfaction and his friends with his just reasons for his conduct which on his part was most honorable and he has no reflections on the young lady.

*Aug. 19.*—"News came of a very bloody action at sea with Adm Parker and the Dutch Fleet off ye Dogerbank north seas.

*Aug. 26.*—"By last post, the King came w<sup>t</sup> the Prince of Wales and visited Adm Parker and had him to dine w<sup>t</sup> him at the Nore.

"Sir John Dick's letter in answer to my invitation to his coming here to stay, that it was his firm intention, but got notice from the Treasury that the King had appointed him a Comptroller of Army Accounts which gave him so much occupation as prevented him from making us a visit now.

<sup>1</sup> The Hon. Chas. Lindsay, 6th son of James Earl of Balcarres, born 1760, became Bishop of Kildare. He married, in 1790, the daughter of Thos. Fydell, Esq. of Boston, and died in 1846. His eldest son Charles was Archdeacon of Kildare. He was born in 1790, and died in 1855.

<sup>2</sup> At Musselburgh.



"I continue well and dined abroad at Mr Boswell's and Lord Balcarras's w<sup>t</sup> Sir Hugh Dalrymple &c &c.

*Sept. 1.*—"12 a clock forenoon the happy news of Lady Balcarras's daughter and the young lady<sup>1</sup> well and safe.

*Oct. 28.*—"Last 23<sup>d</sup> my birthday 78 black pyes were produced for the number of my years and Ripe Grapes 12 or more bunches from the walls of my house open air."

It was on the 23d Oct. 1781 his seventy-seventh birthday that the following lines, "a happy adaptation from Martial Epigr. x. 23, were presented to Sir Alexander by his grand niece Lady Elizabeth Lindsay, Countess of Hardwick":<sup>2</sup>

"This day we hail as subject of our lays  
Antonius happy in a length of days.  
Thrice five Olympiads hath the good man seen ;  
His youth was joyous and his age serene.  
No deed that recollection shuns to name  
Can tinge his forehead with the blush of shame ;  
No day of painful memory unblest  
He wishes banish'd from his tranquil breast ;  
Nor Lethe's certain stream his bosom fears—  
'Tis but the closing of his peaceful years,  
Happy old man ! long may these blessings last  
He twice has lived who can enjoy the past."

*Nov. 11.*—"Lady Elizabeth Lindsay my grandniece finished the face of her copy of a large picture of Mary Magdalene by Guido"<sup>3</sup>

Of the Balcarras family Sir Alexander writes in his book of Anecdotes, 1781.

"My sister Anne<sup>4</sup> had only one Daughter Ann that lived. She was afterwards marryd to the old Earl of Balcarras, then near his grand

<sup>1</sup> Lady Eliz. Keith Lindsay, Sir Alexander's great grandniece, married in 1815, Mr Heathcote of Loughton Hall. She died in 1825.

<sup>2</sup> *Lives of the Lindsays.*

<sup>3</sup> A full length, life size figure

<sup>4</sup> Lady Dalrymple. In the Appendix No. XLVI. of *The Lives of the Lindsays*, anent their descent from the Dalrymples, is given the *family* version of the legend which Mrs Keith first told to Sir Walter Scott, and which he afterwards made famous under the title of "The Bride of Lammermuir."



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climateric and made a most excellent wife to him, which he always expressed in the warmest manner. She bore him eight sons and three Daughters viz. The present Earl of Balcarres (at present little more than thirty) was early in the army and greatly distinguished himself in the late war with the Americans in Canada has already the rank of Colonel and is one of the 16 Peers for Scotland, at last election and speaks well in the House.

Her second son Robert, now in India and has honourably made a handsome fortune there.

Her third son Colin who tho young bears the rank of L<sup>t</sup> Colonel and was present at the most remarkable siege of Giberalter under Gen<sup>l</sup>. Elliot.

Her fourth son William a sailor was accidentally drowned.

Her fifth son Charles bred to the Church at Oxford, is a young clergyman of great merit, and will probably rise high in that line from his learning, prudence and discretion.

Her sixth son James, a most valuable young man, of great merit behaved admirably as a soldier, was Aid-du-Camp to Sir E. Coote in India. In fighting boldly at the head of his company of Grenadiers, was mortally wounded of w<sup>h</sup> he died soon after, universally regretted.

Her seventh son John went to India with his brother James as a soldier (now about twenty-two) was taken prisoner by Hyder Ali, that brutal tyrant who kept him fettered and cruelly used in every shape for some years. He is now happily releiv'd by the peace and gone to his Brother Robert in Bengal. (Their Uncle Stair Dalrymple "had the misfortune to die in that dreadfull place called the Black Hole in Culcutta.)

Her eight and youngest son Hugh is a Lieutenant on board a man of War."

The ladies of the family were fully as distinguished as their brothers. Of them he writes :—

"Lady Anne the eldest, whose residence is in London and it is said she has been fortunate in the stocks. At present at Paris on a jaunt of curiosity, and it is hoped has wrote a journal of her journey through Holland and Flanders which will be very entertaining as she has a great deal of good sense and wit."

This lady has left an ineffaceable mark behind her in the

touching and well-known Ballad of "*Auld Robin Grey*." She married Mr Barnard, and died in 1825.

"Her sister Lady Margaret is gone to accompany her to Paris, having been unfortunately marryd to a man of low birth then very rich but now a Bankrupt.

Her third daughter Lady Elizabeth marryd to Philip Yorke Esq. of Hammels."

Mr Yorke became 3rd Earl of Hardwicke on the death of his uncle in 1796.

"Lady Elizabeth has bore to Mr Yorke two children a son and a daughter."<sup>1</sup>

Of Lady Elizabeth's painting, while staying with her grand-uncle at Prestonfield, Sir Alexander says

"She wrought with enthusiasm and could scarce be torn from her work to take the air in the garden or to go to dinner. The Spirit of Guido and the excellency of the picture are so well copied that it has mett with the admiration of the best judges."

The picture was afterwards removed to Balcarras, as will be seen from her letter to her cousin Miss Dick, and with it Sir Alexander sent the following lines

"Long may your works Balcarras Castle grace  
"And from all Magdelenes guard that place,  
"For though to Heaven repentance joy may bring  
"Unsullied Virtue is on Earth ye Thing."

Lady Elizabeth's letter runs as follows :—

"BALCARRES 18<sup>th</sup>

"Thanks fair Jesica for your two last letters which shew me plainly that the pomps and vanitys of this wicked world have taken compleat possession of your mind—I could preach you a sermon on Dissipation

<sup>1</sup> This son, Viscount Roystoun was drowned in 1808, aged 24. Their daughter Anne married in 1807 John third Earl of Mexborough. She died in 1870. Of this marriage there were two sons and three daughters, Countess Caledon, Lady Stuart de Rothesay and Countess Somers.

Lady Stuart de Rothesay had two daughters, Countess Canning, and Louisa Marchioness of Waterford, both of whom inherited the artistic talent of their grandmother, and are now well known to the public through Mr Augustus Hare's Memoirs of them published under the title of "*Two Noble Lives*."

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at this minute but perhaps you would say the 'Grapes are sour.' I have been speaking with Cap<sup>t</sup> Hyd on the subject of my Magdalen—and he has promised to take the lady into his charge—so if you will be so good as to tell Lady Dick that I think the best way will be to send her down to Mr Rannies at Leith and Cap<sup>t</sup> Hyd will take her into his Cutter the first time he comes up—which will probably be in a week—tell Lady Dick that I am her most obedient Humble Serv<sup>t</sup> Eliz. Scott Lindsay as I am sure she must have had some trouble about it, but I am very grateful for it—and when she sends her two *performances* over the frith of forth, I shall take care that they shall *be safe packed up* and returned in due time.

Our little Minniken grows divinely, and is a charming elf. At this very moment that I am writing I think I see you in all the Pride of dress sallying forth to set the world on fire. *Veni, Vidi, Vici* !!!!! Alas Alas—Giddy Girl that I am how can I assume the appearance of Happiness when the Dear cause of all my Joys has left these desart shores. Oh Willy Cunninghame, Willie Cunninghame, Oh !—by the bye, we had a letter from Colin yesterday he is perfectly well—it was after the sally that the troops made that he wrote but he was not in the expedition.

Tell your friend Mrs Young that Miss Turnours (?) married to Martin Lindsay a son of Harry Lindsay's. I think that Mrs Young mentioned her one evening with great affection which makes me think that she will be interested in this piece of news—Say also—to the same Lady the prettiest things you can invent she is indeed a most pleasing woman.

Balcarres kisses the *tip of your loveliness*—the sense I don't comprehend, Jessy I would not write you another word for the Universe—Hum—less would serve—yours in all stupidity,

ELIZ. LINDSAY.

two porters will carry the picture to Leith Lady Bal is going to write to you immediately if you refuse her request you shall be married to G— W— My best love to all the World."

That this young lady was almost as nimble with her pen as with her brush is shown in the following effusion to her cousin and friend :—

"Sunday

"Once more I'll bend at Dan Apollos shrine

"And greet my Jessy once again in rhyme

"To her I'll now devote my first essay

"Since first I stop'd the progress of my Lay

"Shall I the cause disclose—it is in vain  
 "To hide the Latent weakness of my brain  
 "Hear then my friend I tremble *when I tell*  
 "My genius mouldered as my brown locks fell  
 "Nor was it strange when almost *bare my skull*  
 "That your poor friend should be *so very dull*  
 "When every time the cruel comb Laid waste  
 "Some Little remainder of VERSE or TASTE

"In Ancient Legends ye have oft times read  
 "How Samsons force the Stoutest Warriors dared  
 "Till overcome by beauty's matchless power  
 "His *Truant* prudence let him sleep an hour  
 "The Cruel Dame then grasped the fatal knife  
 "And SHAVED THE HERO that had caused the strife.

"But know my friend *my* head has not been shavd  
 "Altho' that boon with many sighs I cravd  
 "An oracle in peruquier enclosed  
 "The mystic secrets of his trade disclosed  
 "That soon young hair would raise its youthful head  
 "Move the confines of its scaly bed  
 "And soon experience showd the tale was true  
 "I've now *some hairs nor are those hairs a few*  
 "But as *their short* prithee dont expect  
 "That in my *Verses* yet you'll find the effect  
 "But Live in hopes of what you'll see some time  
 "Of flowing tresses—and resounding rhyme  
 "Amongst the Damsels that have tyed their hands  
 "In holy Wedlocks unremitting bands  
 "Ah wherefore in the list can I not see  
 "The name of her that is beloved by me  
 "Yet much I trust to Crimson Habbits' graces  
 "When 'tis displayed at the approaching races  
 "Like Venus when from Neptune's Courts she rose  
 "(If Venus e'er had crimson riding cloaths)  
 "And then This hat with Feathers so adorn'd  
 "As if its former simple State it scornd



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“Bold is the Man or more than Stone his heart  
“Who is not struck with this your featherd dart.  
“Ah me my friend there’s not the smallest chance  
“That in that peridix soon with you I’ll dance  
“Meantime present my kindest love to all  
“From the gay parlour to the humble hall  
“Farewell my friend—now Rhyme to prose must yield  
“And leave to him a while the Conquerd field.

“A *rival* sister my dear Jessy claims the little remainder of paper that I have Left—so forgive me for making so *abrupt* an ending to my POETRY and my LETTER. Adieu thou fairest lady your Eliz.”

The sister takes up the pen

“Ah Jessy Jessy—vain were my vows—my promises but air—I said I would write soon, but I never do anything now that is right but gallop and start out of the even path and have my sides so galled with the spurs of conscience for my misdemeanors that if you was to strip me you would see what a poor wounded Jade I am.

My harpischord is a very happy instrument to have its visit prolonged in your parlour. I wish its former mistress could change places with it for a day nay even for this day as I would with pleasure sacrifice the musical party at the keeper of the Queen’s Duds<sup>1</sup> to hear such a concert as I once heard at your house—or if you please I’ll give up Manclaugh to-morrow—tell us in your next when the *races are* I have a reason for asking—I fancy they will be very brilliant this year. I had constant inquiries after you all last winter from Caulder, was he not such a Chick I should think you had a better chance than Lady P: B—e.”

The races alluded to in the verses took place on the Sands at Leith “where,” says Sir Alexander, “sometimes above three hundred carriages and an immensity of riders and spectators appear.” On this occasion Miss Jessie went with her Guardsman brother in a Gig dressed in a scarlet habit!

To return again to Sir Alexander’s notes, he says

November 11 1781.—“Had a letter to An Keith from James Lindsay

<sup>1</sup> The Mistress of the Robes.



at Madras, supposed no news of his brother John the Prisoner with Hyder Ali.

*November 23.*—"Mr Campbell of Calder dined here and his brother the Captain and one Mr Bateman an Englishman a frivolish sort of man.

*December 2.*—"The fatal news came of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis to the French and American Armies at York in Virginia and thus 6000 fine Troops are rendered useless there and indeed the war in N. America for the sake of G<sup>t</sup> Britain has got probably its death blow. The King's Speech arrived last night owning the loss of Forces there but still insists for the Continuation of Hostile Measures.

*December 9.*—"Mr James Boswell dined yesterday and this day Lord Balcarras and his lady Mrs Maud and her daughter and Baron Rutherford and Mr Haliburton.

Lord Balcarras offered to raise a Regiment in a letter to Lord North if his brother Major at Gibralter was made L<sup>t</sup> Coll of it.

*December 30.*—"Parliament up.

A great victory over Hyder Ali confirmed.

Ireland takes a proper resolution of addressing the King on the loss of Cornwallis not to despair of the State and to join all as one man against France—this much admired, and is a stain on the English minority men.

*December 31.*—"Wrote to Mr Allan Ramsay etc. etc.

*February 3 1782.*—"Lord Braidalbin died last week.

This day Baron Rutherford and Mr Balderston his Doer<sup>1</sup> dined with me.

*February 11.*—"The post master general called last week from Lord Privy Seal about Rhubarb culture and I prepared for him and gave him seeds also.

*February 17.*—"Lord G. Germaine made a Peer. Good sketching<sup>2</sup> on my Loch all last week.

*March 24.*—"Last week news of the certain change of the Ministry came tho Lord North has still nine majority in the House of Commons."

Miss Jessie is again the recipient of a letter of this date from her lively cousin Lady Elizabeth.

Duke Street Manchester Square

24 of March 1782

"If the Fair Jessica will graciously bend her blue beaming eye to the words wrote by a *Delinquent*. If she will in pity to the pains of a dis-

<sup>1</sup> "Doer" was the old term for Legal Agent or Factor.

<sup>2</sup> Old patois for skating.

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tressed conscience grant a pardon to a weeping maiden, if she will remember that Mercy is better than Sacrifice. May she when she has glanced over this Epistle, may she I say let it fall at her feet, from whence it shall be lifted, by a sweetly smiling swain—who may lay himself there instead of my Letter and may he in his turn be lifted up by you the blue eyed maid—if you forgive me this once all these fine things shall happen to you and your petitioner shall ever pray &c &c

Now Cara Carina you must needs be surprized that I contrary to your express orders have addressed you in the Vulgar stile of prose, true it is that flowing numbers would have expressed the *elegance* of my sentiments much better, but then if the numbers above mentioned should by no means flow with that smoothness necessary to do justice to my expressions, it would lessen what it meant to raise, as it has always been observed that it is better to walk afoot than on a lame steed, so prose at this time suits me better than the stumbling pegasus who has been rode so hard to bring *imortal* fame to Mr Garrick and to perpetuate the GLORIOUS VICTORY of *Keppel* that he now stands as lame as Mr *Bowdler* and as I ever am of a *compassionate* nature it would go to my heart to mount him in this situation . . . . .

Now I have run myself to a full stop—for Helas ! not one ball play or opera can be found to ornament my unfortunate letter—to become a *Parrot* and only repeat what I hear would be a great mortification to me I would rather set about inventing some thing out of my own pericranium than be so humbled—apropos I heard that *your* Squire Christian had turned *apostate* and instead of being devoted to the *Priests* had turned his eyes the other way and abjuring the devotion of *that Shrine* had turned a professed Votary of the Goddess of *Hope*—this is a *cruel cruel* blow but I see I think a reason for it . . . You anxious to show your powers over a *Conquered Slave* made him draw your Car in State over the Dudistonian lake<sup>1</sup> so although so near the heat of your Charms your rigour together with the coldness of *Ice* had totally frozen up every pretty sensation till the return of the sun in conjunction with the *rays* of the bright eyes of Lady Sophia Hope—thawed all those *feelings* which were *stiffened* with your coldness and those Speeches which were frost bound and which he meant to adress to you on this sudden return of warmth—flowed at her feet instead of yours—The matter is now cleared up and unless we meet with some more *frost* I don't believe it will be easy to regain the Bird that has left his

<sup>1</sup> Willie Dick had invented a chair on skates with sails.

## A Flirting Cousin to be Sold Cheap 295

Cage— How does all folks in the World of Scotland—and tell, tell me instantly what sort of a being the Illustrious Willy appears to be—to own the truth, under the rose I mean to claim him as my property when we are in Scotland and to practise the noble science of flirting on the said William Dick of the parish of Dudiston. This like every other *Missish* Confidence is a Great *Secret* and must by no means be told to above 6 or seven *dear friends*—if he knows of so villanous a plot he will take fright and be terrified at the sight of me—but a Cousin is one's *personal property* and as much belongs to one as their fortune I wonder one does not see them advertised in the Newspapers—"A flirting Cousin to be sold Cheap properly bred and very fit for the service of any Lady in Town or Country—can speak all sorts of small talk perfectly—and is as well taught to pick up a fan or call up your Coach as any that has ever before appeared in this Metropolis to be viewed any day between the hours of ten and twelve at night where it will display amazing faculty in that way he will be sold by Auction at Almack's great Room St. James Street"—I think it would sell very well and am only much amazed that Mr Christie the famous Auctioneer should never have thought of it. I would if I was you, put Willy to an apprenticeship that he may be properly qualified. I am not old enough or I should be very happy to take him under my protection but alas I am not knowing enough in the *practice* though *perfect* mistress of the Theory—But I promise and vow three things—first, to instruct him as far as I can in the pomp and vanities of this world, secondly to make him as much the fashion as possible, and thirdly to make him walk in the paths of flirtation all the days of his Life—the offer is too good a one to be rejected—and I shall expect no other premium for it than six years of attention to be paid to me and me only except he asks and obtains permission to practice with any other Fair one for a little while.

I only wish any body of the Male Creation would make me so good an offer I should accept with pleasure—

The Peer desires me to tell you that he longs to throw himself at your feet and not to "*let you Just entirely alone*" The Lady Anne sends Comp<sup>ts</sup>. and Love which always preceeding the close of a Letter will serve as a happy omen to shew you that it is here exemplified by my signing myself yours affectionately

ELIZABETH LINDSAY

Pray how does Peggy's petites affectations do I hope she don't leave

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them off—I hear that franking is to be *abolished*, oh cruel fate we misses must either part with our sixpences or our dear friendships, as it has long been said that female attachments were but of short standing, we will now see if they are worth that sixpence which is talked of . . . I hear Sir Alex has composed some Georgicks, I long to see them . . . good-bye.

*Bon Dieu* I have just found out that the Squire made his addresses to Lady Eleonara Hume which sends all the *Wit* in the foregoing page to the Deuce, forgive but not forget me.”

The threatened abolition of franking upon letters, which caused such blank dismay in the minds of the “Misses,” did not take place then, nor indeed until many years later, when a new century had given due consideration to and weighed the matter well. For it was not until 1839 that the Government brought in a bill to introduce Mr Hill’s scheme of all-over rates at a diminished cost, and to abolish the franking system, except in cases of official letters. The letters which have been quoted are addressed to Prestonfield, but to the care of “John’s Coffee House, Edinburgh,”<sup>1</sup>—where, doubtless, they were sent for, as we are informed that there were but twenty-three persons employed in the City Post Office in 1781, including letter carriers.

<sup>1</sup> John’s Coffee-house stood at the N.E. corner of Parliament Close. “It was the resort of the judges and lawyers of the eighteenth century for consultations, and for their ‘meridian’ or twelve o’clock dram.”—*Grant’s Old and New Edinburgh*.

## Chapter XIX.

Victory over the French at Sea—Lady Elizabeth Lindsay's Letters—A Recruiting Order—Death of Lord Auchinleck—Loss of the Royal George—Death of Lord Kames.

[1782-1783]





## Chapter XIX.

To revert again to Sir Alexander's diary. On April first he writes—

*April 1 1782.*—"Lady Balcarras Dowager and Lady Elizabeth came here. The King has graciously given at Lord North's desire going out 150*£* Ster. of Pension to Lady Anne and also Lady Eliz. Lindsay her daughters my grand-nieces.<sup>1</sup>

Began my Georgic work again.

Last week snowy cold and wet weather owing I presume to the former Eclipse of the Moon and the visible Eclipse of the Sun last Friday even.

*April 14.*—"Razors ground last Friday (reads as though the Eclipse had affected their edge!)

Hay rose to sixpence a stone.

Potatoes rose to eightpence a peck.

Last night bro't the agreeable news of the official proposals of Peace and Amity with Holland and with Ireland by Mr Fox's assiduity and address during vacation.

*April 21.*—"New ministry active in forwarding Peace and œconomy seconded by y<sup>e</sup> Kings messages to both Houses.

*May 26.*—"Two posts agoe the great and glorious Victory over the French at Sea April 12 by Adm. Rodney and Sir Charles Douglass who took the French Admiral Count de Grass Prisoner and captured his Ship the Ville de Paris of 110 guns and 4 more of the Line and sank the Cæsar of 64 Guns and shattered the whole Fleet intended against Jamaica. Also very great news of victory last Nov. 1781, and sundry 1782 by Sir Edward Hughs in East Indies and save Jamaica and promote safe and honorable peace.

*June 9.*—"Hay up to 9d. stone very ripe Peaches a duzen from my greenhouse. Rodney's victory and Ad<sup>m</sup> Hughs E Indies astonisht all

<sup>1</sup> The Dowager Lady Balcarras was left with a large family and a very small income, and lived at Balcarras on the produce of the Estate.

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Europe and inspirit Brittain and Ireland now settled and gives 200,000£ to raise 20,000 sailors for Brittain a Thundering stroke to her Enemies.

June 16.—“There has prevailed all over Europe for some time past an Influenza or slight Feverish Disorder attended with loss of appetite headache and pain in the back and limbs, sometimes a giddiness, hitherto without danger or bad symptoms, w<sup>h</sup> after a vomit and moderate sweating goes off. It came chiefly from Russia attended with long and very cold E. wind and frosty Disposition of the air then continued rains floods and foggs. It began in Brittain 10 days agoe and goes north and now here about, is now beginning in this Family.

June 23.—“The Court of Session by it adjourned. The Influenza the most universal ever known but not mortal.”

Lady Balcarras and her daughter had evidently returned home, as Lady Elizabeth again has her pen in hand; this time she addresses Miss Dick as “Beautiful Jannet” instead of “Fair Jesica”; the letter is unsigned but the writing is the same and bears her seal with initials.

“Balcarras Sunday

“Are you all alive? You will probably answer Yes—but are you all alive and *merry*? for I fear much Beautiful Jannet that the *Adjy*'s<sup>1</sup> departure would vex you all a good deal. Cousin Will has I see no great opinion of the secrecy of the Fair Sex—at M<sup>rs</sup> Scotts he first found out whether I returned again to Prestonfield and seeing that there was no chance of repeating it—he made a merit of it and told me that he was to steal away in two or three days—we are all desirous to hear how my Uncle is after his play and if he is not Blank without his Soldier. We had a charming day to cross. Cap<sup>t</sup> Duncan came over with us—and we eat up a great piece of Cold Beef—Cheese Butter &c. and drunk Porter in Proportion.

Cap<sup>t</sup> Duncan went on to Cupar where there was a Ball—altho I was not there—Fureis Death H—l fire, and—and thats all—did you go to Archers-hall & who was the *happy man* that did you the honor to dance with you—what are they doing in Edin<sup>r</sup> now, whose there—and if *they pretend* to be *merry* when I am not there? The Countess Bess is grown *immense* but vastly well—my mother has had a cold but is better—Bal comes down to Edin<sup>r</sup> on Tuesday and will cross without stopping—I suppose Mrs Philip

<sup>1</sup> Adjutant Wm. Dick, 1st Foot Guards, *i.e.* Grenadiers.

## Flowing Numbers or Honest Prose 301

Anstruther will call on you some of these days, she is going to England for a little while.

I am Lazy so give best love to all at Prestonfield—may they all soon attain their *different pursuits particularly* Anny—but she must not drink *shrub* it is quite out of Character—I am with greatest respect for *black eyes* and profound veneration for *white teeth*,

Yours ever once, twice, thrice off and away."

Another letter, bearing no date, but written evidently late in the previous year, is addressed to Miss Dick.

"I know not how long it is since the faithless Eliza adressed her fair Cousin either in *flowing Numbers* or in more *honest Prose*—but I am afraid that it is a long very long time—but as I am pretty well assured that you are not of a *vindictive* Spirit nor of an *unforgiving* mind perchance I may be again admitted into the Private Closet of your affections.

We look very dismal here and very ugly as the Cold takes hold of us in a very familliar manner and what is rather dismal here we are to stay for all this winter. I daresay you have (heard?) that Bal—dont come home a cruel disapointment—and made still more so we are to stay here this winter with no other Companions but a few *Ducks* in a *Dub* before the Door. How entertaining it will be to *Quack Quack* in their assembly they will be my *only friends*. . . . You have been going on like the D—I and all in Scotland la Povera Melvina<sup>1</sup> alias Mrs Dundas alias Miss Reney has *played her cards very ill* and showed but a *loseing game* . . . her spouse is *piqued* but she is entirely *Capot*. . . . I am afraid that she'll continue her *game* when she comes to London—as she has lost all she had to lose—she must play upon *tic* but certainly not upon *honor*. . . . Bath too has been fertile—there has been two duels there the one between two french Gentlemen the other by Col<sup>el</sup> Ackland and a Mr Loyd the former was killed. I am sorry for him as he was a friend of Balcarres's. . . .

You cant think how happy I am at the thought of seeing you this Spring. . . . I dont know how often sleep transports me to Prestonfield but I hope in some months to realize the *Phantom* and *danse once more* in the Appendix.

Your list of your swain's good and bad qualitys is *delightful* we all give it for the oldest. . . . *Hook* him and then Mrs *Butter* may flirt with him all day long. I have no doubt but he will ingratiate himself into the

<sup>1</sup> Alluding to the divorce between the Lord Advocate and Mrs Dundas already mentioned in the Diary.

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family by the account you give of his nimble heels. . . . A *Scater* on Dudistoun. Look on ye Deitys—Miss Jessy never can resist him—no more than I can a piece of smoking Beef that entreats safe passage to my stomach when called by so amiable an object—Friendship must give way. . . . so adio adio—

Your ever affect<sup>e</sup> and very stupid ELIZA LINDSAY."

It would have been amusing to have read this young lady's sentiments on the next and great event of her life, but it is only from the comprehensive Notes that our information comes.

*June* 30 1782.—"News from Lady Balcarras Dowager of a Marriage proposed and agreed to between Lady Elizabeth her daughter of 19 and Mr York of 24 an accomplisht and valuable young man of a considerable independant fortune and the Heir apparant to Earl Hardwick and his nephew, as also nephew to Sir Joseph York and the Bishop of Ely and Member of Parliament just arrived from Vienna and his Travels much w<sup>t</sup> Sir Robert M. Keith my nephew and esteemed by him.

*July* 14.—"Last Sunday forenoon after I had wrote, my son Willie in the Guards arrived in perfect health with a recruiting order and yesterday went to Glasgow on that business and return shortly."

A facsimile of the recruiting order is annexed which will doubtless tickle the fancy of the Guardsman of the day.

*July* 28.—"All the week excellent weather for the Races Lord . . . and Sir Grey Cooper and Lady . . . and much Company at Races Assembly and Concert and all my family and Willie and Campbell of Calder when Mr York was married to Lady Eliz.—his uncle the Bishop of Ely married them Sir Joseph his other uncle present and they went to y<sup>e</sup> country next day to his seat 20 miles from London.

*Aug.* 18.—"An excellent letter from Lady Balcarras Dow to Balcarras from Hamel Mr Yorks fine place in Hartfordshire all in good health happiness and content.

Yesterday at 3 morning to 7 my wife and daughter Bess<sup>1</sup> made 2 hogsheds of a white curran wine of 320 Scots pints of berries and 15 pound sterling worth of raw sugar. This work near a month later than usual—

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards Hon. Mrs Robert Lindsay.





HIS MAJESTY'S FIRST ROYAL REGIMENT  
OF  
FOOT GUARDS.

*The greatest OPPORTUNITY ever known for YOUNG SCOTCHMEN to raise themselves and Families.*

**Y**OUR Duty is a constant Pleasure, being only to attend and Guard his MAJESTY's Person at the Palace, and to the Theatres, Opera-Houses, Masquerades, and Reviews of different Regiments.

When off Duty, you are under no Restraint; there is no Roll-calling; you may dress as you please, go where you please any where within 10 miles round London, and follow any Profession you please; which being constantly in London, is of great consequence to you, the Wages there being about three times more than any where else.

~~Your Pay is 10d. per day, and Subsistence 4s. per week, and 15s. a-year of QUEEN's Bounty, with excellent Quarters, a good Room to yourself, with a Lock and Key, with the full Use of the House, Coal and Candle, and 5 Pints of choice Beer or good Cyder every Day, which the Landlord must furnish you by Act of Parliament.~~

It is well known you cannot be draughted to any other Regiment.

So great an Opportunity as this cannot be supposed to last long; therefore, before it is too late, let all handsome young Men, whose Hearts beat at the Sound of the Drum, and are above mean Employments, inquire after the Party commanded by Captain DICK, where you shall have the Honour of being made one of His MAJESTY's own First Regiment of FOOT GUARDS.

*The BOUNTY is THREE GUINEAS and a CROWN.*

Lads from 16 to 19 are taken 5 Feet 5 inches and an Half; from that to 25 years of Age, at 5 feet 6 Inches and an Half.

N. B. *The Bringer of a good Recruit shall receive ONE GUINEA, by applying to Serjeant SMITH, at the Sign of the Marquis of Granby's Head, Lady Milton's Dike, Canongate, Edinburgh.*



Made by me 18 lines in Verse on Mr Yorks marriage. I shall probably send to Lady Eliz<sup>th</sup> mother soon.

1st Sept.—“Last Thursday Lord Auchinleck<sup>1</sup> died of an easy Death . . . fell in a Dose insensible.

8th Sept.—“The Fatal news of the loss of the Royal George and the immense loss of Adm. Kempenfelt happened by the trifling accident of the keeling the ship for some repairs in the time of severe gale of wind. The ship tho' sunk is said will be brot up again.

22 Sept.—“Yesterday Colonell Glyn of y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Foot Guards dined here and in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon the Ladies &c of the Musselburgh Ball danc'd and were merry. Chas Lindsay here.

Oct. 20.—“Next Wednesday is my Birthday and go then my 80<sup>th</sup> year.

Oct. 27.—“Lord Advocate called up to London the business of Peace being undoubtedly on the Carpet. Lady Balcarras Dowg<sup>r</sup> landed here to stay some days.

Nov. 25.—“Gave this day a missive to my worthy friend Mr James Boswell of Auchinleck that he may after my Decease have the perusal of my great collection of Letters from my friends for many years past—for the purpose of his making out a Memory of my Life, he is desirous to collect together—and he promises to consult my son and friends when he has finisht them.”

Amongst these were two volumes of manuscript state papers of which all trace has been lost.<sup>2</sup> Mr Boswell never completed, if indeed he ever began the biography, his health having already begun to suffer from his excesses.

December 1.—“N.B. No flies have been observed all this year and it is thought all vermin are destroyed.

December 29.—“Lord Kames my worthy 60 years acquaintance died last Thursday in the 87<sup>th</sup> year of his age. I put together an Epitaph in Latin and English to be kept here to his memory.

2 January 1883.—“Here closes this book of Memorandums. The weather very soft and mild and pleasant and good wheat seed time and ploughing.”

<sup>1</sup> Mr James Boswell's father.

<sup>2</sup> These probably came into the family's possession from the Earl of Glencairn, High Chancellor for Scotland in the reign of Charles II.

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We now come to the following Epitaph :—

SOME THOUGHTS SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF HENRY HOME LORD KAMES DECEAS'D which Sir Alexander Dick wrote in Latin and English to be deposited among his papers at Prestonfield from the warm regard he retains for his worthy Friend and Acquaintance of sixty years standing.

Sacred to the Memory of Henry Home of Kames Esq<sup>r</sup> who when alive was the pillar, the ornament, and prop of the Family of the Drummonds of Blair Drummond ; whose daughter and Heiress he married full forty years ago——

He adorn'd the Family-seat by art, seconding the great amenity of Nature ; and by the best means of cultivation, and population, greatly improved the Estate.

To do justice to the conspicuous figure in which he shone, by the goodness of his head, and the warmness of his heart, as a Friend to his Country and to Mankind : We must own that he was an Excellent Judge, with an unremitting attention to his Duty, being one of the number of Senators who sat in Judgement in Civil as well as Criminal Causes in Scotland, for many years, and one of the most active Trustees of its Fisheries and Manufactures.

His Writings which he has from time to time published and have undergone various editions, having already obtained the most general and public applause, will speak for themselves It is but just and decent that I here own to posterity, that with respect to jurisprudence, equity, and the moral duties, the Art of Criticism and what relates to the improvement of Ground and Agriculture it is allowed there does not exist better principles, nor counsels than are wisely and elegantly set forth in these numerous volumes, for the benefit of his Country, the utility, as well as the agreeable entertainment of mankind.

His Country may be proud to have produc'd so excellent a Genius, and at the same time so long liv'd and Patriotic a Citizen.

## Chapter XX.

Sir John Dick at the War Office—Dr Lowth's letter—"On Prestonfield long ago"—Sir John Dick's letters—His portrait painted.

[1782-1783]





## Chapter XX.

AFTER the death of his wife, Sir John Dick seems to have been glad of his new occupation as Comptroller of Accounts in the War Office, which kept him closely at work, and therefore with less time to realize the great blank in his life, which the loss of one who had been his dear companion for so many years would otherwise have made. He speaks in his letters of the enormous pressure of work, owing to the wars on land and at sea, all the accounts for which passed through his hands, and were personally examined by him before going to the Treasury for liquidation. So much labour did this entail that he says he was constantly employed until after midnight.

He writes to Sir Alexander :

"Thank God, the Treasury is now shut and I have got through the greatest part, but I can safely say I never worked so hard in my life—as I did not care to sign anything that I could not answer for. I have not had it in my power to go to my villa <sup>1</sup> altho' three hours would suffice, for these three weeks past, and yet I have above Twenty People at Work constantly but I hope to gett a peep at them some day during the Holydays."

Again writing from "Mount Clare, 5th Nov. 1782," he says

"I have the pleasure to assure you that I hear from all Quarters that Lady Elizabeth has gained the hearts of all the York Family indeed I foretold the event. We are anxious for news from Lord Howe as much will depend on the event of that expedition I fear that the Peace is not so near as we wish, and that the French have too good hopes of the next campaign in the East Indies which will naturally induce them to wait the Issue of it."

<sup>1</sup> Mount Clare.

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Writing from Harley Street, 19th January 1783, he alludes to the length of time between his letters.

“Owing to the multiplicity of the Business in my Office which daily increases, and the weakness of my nerves obliges me to make use of an Amanuensis.

The Success which your worthy son meets with gives me great pleasure, the more so as I find it gives great satisfaction to his superiors. . . . I am happy to hear that our friend Mr Boswell goes on so well and I heartily wish him success, pray be so good as to present my kindest compliments to him. You will doubtless have heard that Lady Elizabeth York has been very much indisposed, but thank God, she is now recovering fast, she is a most amiable young woman and deservedly esteemed by all the Hardwick Family. I perceive that you have had the satisfaction of completeing the Lord Advocate's re-election.<sup>1</sup>

I shall always rejoice at every piece of good fortune that attends him, his singular merit cannot fail to raise him to the highest honors. We now begin to think Peace very near at hand, it is generally thought we shall hear something decisive in a few days.

I have only to add that I am vastly flattered at your obliging wishes to honour my Portrate with a Place in your house. Mr Naesmith when here had not time to do it as he had engaged in Painting a whole Family in the City.

If you will be so obliging as to send me the size you wish it to be I will have it done by one of our Artists here. I furnished Mr Naesmith with letters to my Friends in Italy who I hope will be of use to him.

I beg good Lady Dick and y<sup>r</sup> worthy Son and Daughter and the Miss Keiths to accept of my most Respectfull Compliments and I most sincerely wish that you and they may see many happy returns of this season and I hope you will always allow me the honour to be with the most affectionate attachment

my dear Sir Alex. etc. etc.

JOHN DICK.

The next letter to Sir Alexander is from Dr Lowth, Bishop of London.

<sup>1</sup> Mr Henry Dundas was Lord Advocate in the beginning of 1783. He was succeeded by the Hon. H. Erskine and Mr Hay Campbell of Succoth.

"London House Feb<sup>r</sup> 22 1783.

DEAR S<sup>r</sup>

I am greatly obliged to you for your kind Letter and have taken a particular pleasure in reading many times your agreeable account of your *viridis* and *jucunda senectus*, w<sup>ch</sup> gives no interruption to your business or amusements, but permits or rather prompts you to pursue your former occupations as Physician,<sup>1</sup> Citizen, and Poet with your usual vigour and spirit I ought not to say anything of my self for my account would be a contrast to yours. I must however offer it as an excuse for my not thanking you sooner for your kind letter. Indeed my ill health has made me almost incapable of this kind of intercourse with my friends and hardly able to answer the necessary demands of my public business I am almost confined to my house I am forced to be obliged to the kindness of my Brethren, who are so good as to perform for me the offices of Ordination, Confirmation &c. I never go to the House of Lords or any public meetings on business. My case is the Stones, and the only medicine y<sup>t</sup> relieves me, indeed the only y<sup>t</sup> I take y<sup>t</sup> is Laudanum at the same time y<sup>t</sup> it gives me ease is attended with great inconvenience for it throws such a cloud over me y<sup>t</sup> it makes me incapable of all application and almost of amusement.

I am glad to hear so good an account of Dr Robertson, who seem'd to me to be a very promising young gentleman, and am much obliged to you for the Emperor's Letter w<sup>ch</sup> I find our newspapers have got but not so correct as your copy. I have been very unlucky in not having the pleasure of seeing your Son, by not being in Town when he was here. I hope I may be more fortunate another time if I live to another opportunity.

With my heartiest wishes for a long continuance of your health and all

<sup>1</sup> Sir Alexander, from the time that he succeeded, prescribed for all who asked his advice, but never accepted a fee from rich or poor. Amongst the latter especially he did much good work, particularly in treating affections of the eyes, and this caused him to be looked up to and revered by all on his estate.

Boswell writes as follows regarding him :—"In consequence of Johnson's request that I should ask our physicians about his case, and desire Sir Alex. Dick to send his opinion, I transmitted him a letter from that very amiable baronet, then in his eighty-first year, with his faculties as entire as ever; and mentioned his expressions to me in the note accompanying it,—'With my most affectionate wishes for Dr Johnson's recovery, in which his friends, his country, and all mankind have so deep a stake.'

The Doctor's reply ran :—

" 'To James Boswell Esq.'

" 'DEAR SIR . . . Return Sir Alex. Dick my sincere thanks for his kind letter : and bring with you the rhubarb he so tenderly offers me . . . I am etc. SAM JOHNSON.' "

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possible happiness to your good Lady and Family in which Mrs Lowth and my Daughters beg leave to join

Dear S<sup>r</sup> your most etc. etc.

R. LONDON

A rumour seems to have been spread shortly after this, that the Bishop of London was to be made Archbishop of Canterbury; his next letter states the real facts of the case.

"London House May 12 1783

DEAR SIR

I am very much obliged to you for your kind Letter, your good wishes, and your good advice. You see y<sup>t</sup> I do not make use of one part of it; namely y<sup>t</sup> of relieving myself by using an Amanuensis: the reason is, because not having been used to that practice, I do not know how to set about it; and I should find it much more troublesome to dictate than to write. I must set you right in regard to a report, which you say you had only from the Papers, which as it happened, was tolerably authentic, for it was but half false. His Majesty<sup>1</sup> did indeed do me the great honour of offering me the Archbishoprick of Canterbury, by a letter under his own hand, the day after the vacancy. I immediately returned His Majesty my most humble Thanks for y<sup>e</sup> very great honour he designed me, and begd him in consideration of my age and ill health, to excuse my declining on Office w<sup>ch</sup> I found myself incapable of properly discharging. The next morning I received a second Letter from H. M. ordering me to wait on him at y<sup>e</sup> Queens Palace. My being with the King in consequence of this command, gave rise to the other report that I had recommended the B<sup>p</sup> of Bangor. The King was pleased to communicate to me his design in regard to the subsequent removes, but I assure you, the B<sup>p</sup> of Bangor was the King's own choice; and all y<sup>e</sup> world agrees that he could not have chosen better. I am sure no one whatever recommended him. The King told me with great seriousness and earnestness that he had laid before him the whole List of Bishops and had made his choice with great attention.

The King I hear is greatly afflicted with y<sup>e</sup> loss of Prince Octavius. All y<sup>e</sup> world agrees y<sup>t</sup> he was a most amiable child and y<sup>e</sup> King was particularly fond of him.

When your Son comes this way I shall be very glad of the honour of

<sup>1</sup> George III.







THE DRAWING ROOM, PRESTONFIELD HOUSE,  
*from a Photograph by Mr Alex. A. Inglis.*

## The Muse of Friendship 311

seeing him and his Company. I shall be at Fulham all y<sup>e</sup> Summer. I shall there be able to bear a little exercise and have a little air; w<sup>ch</sup> I cannot do here, I can bear the roads about London, but not the pavement in y<sup>e</sup> Town. I have more ease than last year and with that I must be satisfied

I have the honour to be with great Respect  
Dear Sir your most obedient humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
R. LONDON.

“P.S.—I am much obliged to you for your elegant Inscription on your late Friend Lord Kames.”

Sir John Dick, in his last letter, mentions Lady Elizabeth's illness and happy recovery. This charming lady, though “Woo'd and Married and a',” has by no means forgotten the joys of her youth, and the pleasant days spent at Prestonfield. For once again, at the call of her cousin, she “resumes her lay,” and the recollections of the old happy days afford her an appropriate theme, which she treats with lingering affection in the lines that fall so naturally from her pen.

### “ON PRESTONFIELD LONG AGO.

“Since 'tis your will that I resume my lay  
“Upon what theme my gentle Anna say  
“My love I hope no longer you can doubt  
“Still 'tis the same but all my Rhymes wore out  
“The Muse of Friendship is at present busy  
“Nor will she lend her pen to pauvre Lizzy  
“Methinks I'll sing of Prestonfielders Bows  
“Where I have spent so many happy hours  
“When in the Swing as to and fro I went  
“At every pull a friendly hand you lent.  
“Or when to rob the Mother of her young  
“With barberous intent we paced along  
“You safely bore the little Flutterers home  
“And kindly placed them in your happy dome

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" You rose betimes my little Birds to feed  
 " To make fresh Croudie or to mix some seed  
 " When at the burn we all for Minnows sought  
 " And for a crooked pin with Bess I fought  
 " Each one but I, of crooked pin posesst  
 " To thee I then my poverty confest  
 " From your own Gown the pin with haste you drew  
 " And the straight line was furnished by you  
 " Happy the time when in the appendix dancing  
 " I viewed the gracefull Mr Wilson prancing  
 " And when by him was asked to dance *Shantrews*  
 " What heart but marble could the youth refuse  
 " Ye Gods how charming t'would have been to see  
 " The handsome Bowdler skipping it with me  
 " Up from his chair the good Sir Ally bounded  
 " And bravo cryed till all the room resounded  
 " Delightfull strains the sweet Miss Jessy strummed  
 " While blinking Jamie on the fiddle thrummed  
 " So sweet a concert I never heard before  
 " Unless when mixed with little *Boby's*<sup>1</sup> roar  
 " Yet dear Variety I own is sweet  
 " But this had none, for oft did Boby greet  
 " Some times the tragic Muse our Bosoms fired  
 " And *all* the Theatre our minds inspired  
 " With hasty steps to Jessy's room we ran  
 " And there the play of Douglass we began  
 " The *Character* which Jessy played  
 " Was Randolph *and* his Wife and Maid  
 " Glenalvan, Douglass, and the Shepherds part  
 " Elizee played with action and with art  
 " But what due words can speak my grief and shame  
 " O be it blotted from the Book of fame  
 " When I should come supported by my sword  
 " Wounded by Randolph that perfidious Lord  
 " No sword had I my trembling steps to aid  
 " A Besom then my faltering footsteps staid

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards Sir Robert Keith Dick-Cunyngham.

"In sports like these, our time flew fast away  
 "A month at Prestonfield seemed to me a day  
 "No time nor absence from this mind shall move  
 "The ever strong impressions of my *Love*."<sup>1</sup>

In a previous letter reference has been made to the advancement of Sir Alexander's son, William, in his regiment, and the letter from Sir John, which is now introduced, bears upon the subject, and shows the state of the army at that time in the matter of exchanging regiments, and getting a good price by so doing.

"Mount Clare 13th July 1783.

"MY DEAR SIR ALEXANDER,—Your worthy son delivered me the other day, the very kind Letter which you did me the honour to write last month, which I find came by sea with his Baggage, and was the reason I had not the satisfaction of receiving it sooner. I was very glad to perceive by it, that you began to feel the good effects of the fine weather and I hope your health is ere this perfectly established.

With respect to your plan of our young Captain<sup>2</sup> exchanging from the Guards into another Regiment, I entirely approve of it, and even meant to propose it to him before I received your letter as it will answer every good end whatsoever. I not only told him this, but advised him to lose no time in concluding it before the Regulation was enforced, with regard to the regulating Prices, he told me that he had Two Offers, one of which was a Captain of a marching Regiment on half pay and the other a Captain Lieutenancy of Dragoons on full pay; as I have not had the pleasure of seeing him since, I do not know which he has preferred, but I desired him that as Colonel Pleydell was a much better Judge of those matters than myself to consult him and follow his advice therein. I therefore conclude ere this the Business is done, and that I shall have the pleasure of seeing him in a day or Two about it. It will be very lucky if he can conclude this arrangement now, when such high Prices are given for exchanges of this sort, and hereafter being able to purchase a Majority at the Regulated Price; in the meantime he will have time to travel, and pursue the Plan of Education which both you and I have thought most proper for him. . . .

<sup>1</sup> "The whole kindred, as was usual in Scotland, lived in the closest friendship and unity, and Prestonfield was ever remembered by them as a paradise of early happiness."—*Lives of the Lindsays*.

<sup>2</sup> W. Dick.



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We have had for some time past excessive hot weather, the Hay harvest has proved very plentiful and I hope the corn will not be less so.

Since I have been in the country Captain Butler<sup>1</sup> was so kind to call upon me in Town, but as he did not leave his directions I have never been able to find him out, however by means of our young captain I hope I shall succeed now. I have only to add," etc. etc.

From the subsequent remarks in Sir John's letters, it may be presumed that England, then pretty well at peace, had not sufficient occupation for many of her naval officers, hitherto fully employed. Also that Russia was glad to avail herself of any who could be persuaded to take service in that country, that she might profit by their superior skill, her own navy being of a very different calibre from that of Great Britain.

Sir John, however, seems to have succeeded in obtaining employment for Sir Alexander's relative, Captain Butler, and his young friend, Lieut. Norris, as he writes to that effect, having returned to his work at the War Office, where he is again under pressure of much business.

In spite of hurry and stress from want of time, he never omits, at the end of each letter, punctilious messages to all the family separately by name, with the lengthy assurance of being "ever of the most Respectfull and affectionate attachment, my dear Sir Alexander's much obliged and most Faithfull Friend." We, of a hundred years later, under similar circumstances, curtly condense our salutation into "yours ever."

Sir John writes from Mount Clare on the 19th July :

"I had the honour to write you last week, since which I have been daily in expectation either of seeing or hearing from our young Captain, about his Plan of Exchange which I am very anxious should be soon concluded, least a stop should be put to those negotiations as is intended. I this day wrote him a few lines on the subject.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Alexander's nephew by his second marriage, with Miss Butler.

I have now to thank you for the honour of y<sup>r</sup> obliging Letter of the 8th inst. which was delivered me by Lieut. Norris who I presented to Mr Simolin the Russian Minister; I find he is not authorized to engage officers for their service; Proposals have been made from Russia to Captain Knowles, to enter into that service as a Rear Admiral, and the choice of a certain number of officers is left to him, but it seems doubtful whether he will go or not, as his health is not good and the Physician advise him against it. If Lieutenant Norris continues his wish to try the Russia Service, which I very much doubt whether he will like or not, my advice is that he should go to Petersbourg, where I will recommend him in the strongest manner to our Friend Admiral Greig, there he will see the nature of the service, and determine according to his opinion of it. This Plan cannot be attended with any great expense as he will naturally go by Sea and I trust upon mature Reflection that you will also be of the same opinion."

From Sir John Dick,

"Harley St. 20 November 1783.

"My DEAR SIR ALEXANDER,—

I have now to thank you for your obliging Letters of the 12 and 13th of this month, those inclosed were immediately sent to our Young Soldier. I am happy in finding that you so much approve of his getting out of the Guards, this is a circumstance which I have had much at heart, from the moment he got the Rank of Captain, not from the least suspicion of his being any ways Tainted, with the Vices of this wicked Town, but from the natural Vivacity attending Youth and his own good Nature I feared might lead him imperceptibly into unesesary expences in the company of his Young Military acquaintances. I have therefore for some time past earnestly urged to him to endeavour to get excused from going to Ireland and to return to Prestonfield, for which purpose he went down to Portsmouth to waite on his new Commanding Officer, at his return he assured me that he was absolutely under the necessity of joining the Regiment in Ireland for about a month when he hoped to obtain leave to return home especially as he had wrote to Sir Robert Keith to that effect, he means to set out from hence in a few days; he Captain Butler and Lieutenant Norris do me the favour to dine with me Tomorrow, when we shall talk all our little matters over. Captain Butler I find has a promise of being employed. As soon as I knew this circumstance, I took the Liberty of writing to Lord Keppel earnestly requesting the favour of his Lordship

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to employ Lieutenant Norris, enclosed you will find His Lordship's answer, by which I make not the smallest doubt that he will soon be in commission; my next attention will be to contrive if Possible to get him in Captain Butlers Ship as I know it will be agreeable to all Parties.

I almost envy you the happiness you had in the Company of that worthy Friend Baron Rutherford, I have a great Loss in being deprived of his Conversation after having been for so many years indulged with it, I was to have had the pleasure of spending this evening with our Friends Lady Balcarres, Lady Margaret, Lady Elizabeth York &c at Lady Ann's,<sup>1</sup> but the increase of business at my office, now keeps me so much employed during the Day that I am under the necessity of Devoting many of my evenings to the necessary attention of my Friends at a distance.

I have not heard that your worthy Friend Mr Dundas of Melvil is yet come to Town. You will see by the Papers what passed in the House of Commons on Tuesday last. This day se'night will be a very Interesting day."

Again, on the 14th December 1783, he writes :

"I am glad to hear that the Picture has reached you, you are very good in honouring it with a Place in your Great Room, amongst the rest of the fine Collection you have of the Family Pictures; the Painter's Name is Charles Stuart an American, was some time at Edinburgh, where he did several Pictures, since that he has studied under M<sup>r</sup> West and is I think one of the best Portrait Painters here.

I hope ere this you have seen Lieutenant Norris You may depend that I shall be watchfull, to embrace every favourable opportunity to remind Lord Keppel of his Promise to employ him.

I congratulate you on the appearance there is of the forfeited Estates being soon restored to the Respective Family's, and on the proper use, that the money charged on them is to be applied to such good Purposes Whoever has contributed towards this good work, will be entitled to the gratefull thanks of their country.

Altho' the Business of the Comptrollers office is now become of great magnitude and is daily increasing, I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that my health is better than I ever expected it to be. I have only to add my most affectionate compliments," etc. etc.

JOHN DICK.

<sup>1</sup> Lady Anne Barnard.

## Chapter XXI.

A remarkable Comparison—Death of Sir Alexander Dick—Lady Anne Barnard's letter and Verses—Miss Elizabeth Dicks marriage—The Countess of Balcarres' Letter—Death of Sir William Dick—Letters from the Earl of Ancram—Sir John Dick's Death.

[1785-1804.]





## Chapter XXI.

THE remaining letters to Sir Alexander are of no particular interest, and we have to turn to his Memoranda book for the last information which he gives. It takes the form of a *resumé* of the events of the century, which he compares very favourably with those amidst which his grand-parents lived and suffered.

"A curious and remarkable comparison arises, whether we of this 18th century or our fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who lived in the 17th century, such as Sir James Dick my grandfather (by my mother) and Sir William of Braid his grandfather etc. etc. enjoyd more tranquillity and felicity than we, from the government which subsisted in each of their times, and ours, and I must own to my family, my friends and my children, as to myself who have lived near 83 years in this century, I look back with horror, upon the miserys and distresses which attended the lives of my grandfathers of the former age, who were witness's to the injustice, the cruelty's, the absurd fanatisim, and indeed shocking and barbarous conduct which at length prevaild of the rebels when Cromwell appeared at their head, and destroyd that liberty totally, which at first setting out he and they pretended to defend.

There was not a landed gentleman in Scotland but what suffered more or less by the consequences of the long civil war during the reign of Charles the First, and in the ill-conducted cruel administration of the Duke of Lauderdale, during the disipated and debauchd reign of Charles the Second, and even during the reign of King William, as we had a different Parliament from that of England, discouragements and even material injuries were done to the trade of Scotland, as in the affair of Darien in America, where there was very foul play comitted to discourage that trade, which was loudly and justly complaind of.

Upon the whole, to conclude my comparison, I must own that we who have lived and do live in this 18th century, have by much the advantage of our predecessors, arising from the union of the Kingdoms in the begin-

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ning of the century when one parliament governd both, and the family of Hanover was by that union declared to have the only right to sway the sceptre of Great Britain, and where the successive reigns of George the first, the second and the third governd with wisdom, perseverance and justice, and in whose reigns the ablest and best Ministers have lived and do live to execute that great office, such as Mr Pelham, the great William Pitt (afterwards Lord Chatham), and at present the wonderfull young man William Pitt, Chancellor of the Exchequer and first Lord of the Treasury, who astonishes the world with his virtues, his activity in business and perseverance with fortitude and uncommon magnanimity supporting the character and credit of Great Britain against all its foes at home and abroad, while he himself to the astonishment of mankind, is under the thirtieth year of his age, and if he lives as minister to the end of this century (for which he will have the wishes of all good men with him) he will compleat the great superiority in felicity, tranquility, and prosperity, of Great Britain and Ireland in the 18th century above the 17th, and here I end this essay, to give my family and children my full view of these great affairs—

*Deus nobis haec otia fecit."*

---

As was the century, so too were the days of this fine old Scotsman fast wearing away ; already most of his life-long acquaintances had gone before him, and now it was his turn to depart.

About a month after he penned the above essay, the summons, for which he had long been prepared, came. No man was ever more sincerely regretted or more generally mourned.

The following are the concluding words of a sermon preached at Duddingston on the 20th Nov. 1785, the first Sunday after his funeral.

"Without being liable to a charge of Adulation I may at this time point out to you such a character" (referring to previous remarks) "lately one of the most respected and honoured of this congregation now gathered





LADY ANNE BARNARD.

*From the miniature by Richard Cosway, R.A.*

to his Fathers. He enjoyed a long life and by the blessing of God was prosperous and happy in earnest of a Higher reward. In his early days he was at pains to qualify himself not merely by elegant accomplishments but he was ardent in the pursuit of usefull knowledge. When he was called to act in public Life he did not hide the talents given him but was for many years distinguishedly active and usefull. And he was distinguished not by bustling in party politics, not by scrambling for power of lucrative offices, but by doing real service to his Country, preserving the dignity of Independance. In the opposition which every man must expect to meet with in the public service, he was not easily discouraged, he was active and persevering and by the equanimity of his temper was able to subdue the passions and caprices of others. He was successful in his endeavours, and the public Improvements carried on chiefly by his Activity and Judgement will long remain monuments in honour to his name."<sup>1</sup>

Sir Alexander was succeeded by his eldest son, Captain William Dick, of the Grenadier Guards, who shortly after married Miss Douglas of Garwaldfoot. His mother, now Dowager Lady Dick, went to reside at Salisbury Green with her second son, John, and her daughters, and it was to that address that Lady Anne Lindsay wrote to Miss Dick, very shortly after her marriage with Mr Barnard, giving her reasons for marrying a man of about her own age, after having protested it was the last thing she ever intended doing—in which respect, perhaps, she is not altogether peculiar!

Her account of the Irish bishop who got drunk every day from drinking healths, is given in such a matter of fact way, that it was evidently no uncommon occurrence among the dignitaries of the Church, nor was it looked upon as being particularly out of place.

The verses, also written by Lady Anne, seem to bear upon her marriage with one whom she considers a very young man,

<sup>1</sup> "Sir Alexander's was no common character: to an intellect highly cultivated he united strict honour, warmth in friendship, universal benevolence, and a serene and cheerful temper—qualities which rendered him beloved through life, and lamented when he departed."—*Lives of the Lindsays*.



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although she gives his age as thirty-two, so that he must have been, at anyrate, not her junior. It certainly was a very different match in point of years to that made by her mother, whom she doubtless took as her model.

“ St Nolstans Dec<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>

DEAREST OF ALL POSSIBLE JESSYS—A long—long friendship may excuse one on certain occasions for taking a long sheet—I seize the longest I can lay my hands on to save you double postage and at the same time to give you such an account of my life and conversation as I think you and those of my dear friends who compose the fireside of Salisbury Green may like to have.

I well know the kindness of their hearts and have in mine a warm corner for them in return from *which place* I date this letter tho' it is wrote at St Nolstans the bishop's country House, or rather Villa, being scarcely large enough in extent to be calld a seat—the H. is also too large to be reckond the other.

I arrived here as my mother woud tell you about a month or five weeks ago, having travelld by slow stages on account of my Invalid's health which was very poor. I had compromised the matter with him by consenting to marry him when I thought it full as well for me to delay it, on consideration of my acting as nurse till we shoud arrive in Ireland and to be sure I did right in nursing him, as a Yellower Bluer more bilious mortal never was seen than he was for some weeks but now what with hunting and shooting in the forenoon good chear—peace of mind and the *charms of my company* his face is become round again, all his long features are got into their places, his white teeth are sparkling and his black eyes rolling and he is quite a different man.—he tells me that he is very very Happy—and that if he knows himself or me he will be equally so twenty years hence as he loves best in me the things which are of the least perishable nature, and as I find the *most* perishable *articles* are very highly held up along with this, I have every reason to be satisfied with this *Long 20 Years Compliment*; the more so as I realy believe it will be the case as he is a very domestic mortal, grave in his tastes and arranged in his notions tho' without fidget or prudery. Hugh calls him sometimes old Barnard and I say not unjustly—I tell you all these particulars dearest Jess to encourage you to go and do likewise as to waiting till a *perfect monster* appears I found out just in time and no

more that it was in vain to look for one, every man has some vile antidote to take away from the point of good, too poor, too giddy too cold, too old, too young—mine is the last and could I have made him 42 instead of 32, I should have been glad, but as my father used to say to my mother ‘In spite of this, odsfish madam are we not of the same age? You are an old young woman, and I am an young old man!’

Jesting apart, such has ever been my dislike of marrying a man even *a day* younger than myself that I certainly never intended to have accepted of my present Lord, a variety of *persuaders* however and a variety of considerations united to make me give up that system (rigidly as I had laid it down) and I believe I shall have no cause to regret it, as he seems to me of *a temper* particularly *fitted* to the *choice he has made*, which is of more consequence in marriage than all the cardinal virtues are, on the woman’s side, if a love of change and caprice of taste is on the other.

This of St Nolstans is a very beautifull place. A fine cantering river runs within a hundred yards of the windows and saves me the trouble of going out to look for it which is a great delight in a country view—this I enjoy at the fire side where I am now sitting and where I should be very happy if you would meet the Duke and Duchess of Leinster and half a dozen of the neighbours who dine here—*it is only stepping into your carr drawn by doves and descending*—if any thing the neighbourhood here is too crowded, as it produces a quantity of dinners and suppers w<sup>ch</sup> wear me out, in the country I like to muddle on with my work, my writing, my harpsichord in a quiet way instead of being dressed out, and being agreeable all day long, However as this is a sort of visit not likely to Happen again soon I must not object, the sea is a terrible Inconvenience and what with sickness and fright I do not think I shall return . . . at least for some time here, nor shall I be wished for, as both the Bishop and his wife are so very partial to London, that they will like better to come to us I dare say than for us to come to them—I am much afraid however that the new house in Berkeley Square comes on too slowly for me to expect it to be finished even by the spring—it is quite vexatious—and another thing is vexatious, that I hear Robert<sup>1</sup> is in town and I cant see him—at least I am glad that Bessie is not, as that I trust will induce both to come up the beginning of summer when I shall certainly be there—Anny being I think much improved in looks. I saw her sometimes at L<sup>dy</sup> Anstruthers—the dear Mary Pringle<sup>2</sup> is going to jilt us I believe for the

<sup>1</sup> Hon. R. Lindsay.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Alexander’s daughter by his second marriage.

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rest of her life. They should make a party with Bob and Bessy and come up together . . . but then the Jessy too must come or it would be incomplete. I wish you would take possession of Sir John Dicks Castles at once you would be of great advantage to each other, he gave me a breakfast a few days before I was married and when I saw all his fine conveniency's—his beautiful china—his fruit—and his agate tea chest with gold boxes, I thought of you—I reproached him with keeping all these good things to himself, he shook his head and said, 'Ah woes me I'm our Auld to think of changes now,' but he looked beautiful at the moment—I rejoice to hear of my mother's being so well—she and my Bishop<sup>1</sup> have commenced a flirtation which may end *anyhow* as Mrs Barnard is in a very poor state of Health—the B(ishop)<sup>2</sup> is in love with her and gets tipsy drinking her (health) every day. I have told him that I will no(t allow) her health above three times a week, he (says) I may let it alone, he'll drink it himself:—the very day after he received her letter he drove to Dublin—bought a bottle of snuff, containing over a pound and half of choice snuff which he sent over to England directed to Margarets care, so perhaps by this time (if Margt. is speedy in her part of the business by sending it off to Scotland) you are all sneezing by scores round her, for that villainous blackguard snuff is so very subtle that there is no sitting within a mile of it in safety—I daresay her Husband<sup>3</sup> Anne Keith will often be greatly annoyd by it, but my mother will pinch on, and she is right in moderation—dear Jessy read her part or all of this letter, and tell her that Barnard was delighted with hers, as I was, on my getting so good a character from my last place . . . my next letter shall be to Sister Bal. in whose debt I am for a kind one, I let the answer of it stand as I was then giving my Mother all my anecdotes and this bundle of yours will do for a few days to come—Adieu dearest Jess my kindest love to Aunt—to Mrs Butter—to John Mr Barnard sends his cordialy and says if he can contrive to go round by Scotland he will hope to be better acquainted believe me ever D<sup>r</sup> Jess

Your most affectionate

A. B.

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Barnard, born 1728, died 1806. Son of Dr William Barnard, Bishop of Derry. Was consecrated Bishop of Killaloe in 1780, and translated to Limerick in 1794. Was a member of most of the literary societies of the United Kingdom, and friendly with Burke, Johnson, Garrick, Goldsmith, etc.—*Edm. Croker*.

<sup>2</sup> Where the words are completed in brackets, there is a small hole in the paper.

<sup>3</sup> Dow. Lady Balcarras and Miss Anne Keith lived together after all her daughters were married, and Lady Balcarras always called Miss Anne her husband.

I

"When late a cold and heedless maid  
 "Had raised a flame I still deplore  
 "The Hoodwink'd Boy I calld in aid  
 "Tho' fatal to my *suit* before.

2

"At length propitious to my prayer  
 "The little clever urchin came  
 "And soon remov'd with dextrous care  
 "The *bitter* cause of this sad flame.

3

"I saw him spurn the humble ground  
 "And wave aloft his Conquering Arms  
 "Till high in air I heard him sound  
 "His conquest o'er my vain alarms.

4

"Say by what title, or what name  
 "Shall I this youthful Boy address?  
 "Cupid and he are not the same  
 "I'll kiss you Lady if you guess."

On the reverse side of the sheet, Lady Anne gives the following conundrums, which the reader may possibly be able to solve.

"Why is the National Convention at France like a Leech?  
 Why is the British Convention at Edinburgh like a Jaded Horse?  
 Why are united Irishmen like a Pope?  
 Why is Lord Lauderdale like an unsuccessful Methodist Preacher?  
 Why is Lady Buckinghamshire like a Victorious Army?  
 Why is Mr Dundas like an expectant Lottery Ticket holder?  
 Why is Col. Macleod like a sour apple?"

The affectionate intercourse between the two families had become even more closely cemented by the marriage of Sir Alexander's daughter Elizabeth with the Honourable Robert



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Lindsay second son of the late, and next brother of the then, Earl of Balcarres. The announcement of this event to Sir John Dick is acknowledged by him in the following letter to Dowager Lady Dick; and again, in another, dated a month later, he offers his congratulations on her second daughter Mary's engagement to Mr Pringle of Yair and Whitehill.

"Harley Street 22nd November 1788.

MY DEAR LADY DICK,—I beg your acceptance of my very sincere thanks, for the very kind and obliging letter which you did me the honor to write me the 10th of this month, and particularly of the agreeable news which you send me of the Union which is soon to take place between your Amiable Daughter Elizabeth<sup>1</sup> and Lord Balcarres second Brother, I most sincerely congratulate your Ladyship and them thereon, and heartily wish that they may long enjoy uninterrupted happiness.

I am sorry that the marriage is delayed by the dreadful disaster which has happened to Lord Balcarres, who I hope will soon recover, as his healthful constitution and good Temper, must greatly contribute thereto.

I only heard yesterday that Sir Robert Keith was arrived, I shall endeavour to pay my Respects to him this day."

The next letter is dated

"London the 1st December 1789.

I have this day the pleasure to receive the very obliging Letter which your Ladyship did me the Honor to write me the 28th of last month, with the agreeable notice that your second Daughter is soon to be married to Mr Pringle, nephew to our worthy Friend Baron Rutherford on which I beg leave to congratulate you all, and hope that their union will be attended with every degree of happiness.

<sup>1</sup> "I am transported with my new daughter," writes her mother-in-law Lady Balcarras, "she is everything the heart of man or woman can desire."

Miss Elizabeth Dick, daughter of Sir Alexander Dick, Bart. of Prestonfield, married on the 25th November 1788 to Hon. Robert Lindsay, "he had marked her for his own when she was yet a child, before he went to India."—*Lives of the Lindsays*.

After the death of "her husband," as Miss Anne Keith was playfully called, Mr and Mrs Robert Lindsay watched over the remaining days of the Dowager Lady Balcarras with all the tenderness of a loving son and daughter. Her memory had been gone for some years before her death, but sparks of her original brightness remained until the last.



## The Happiest of her Sex 327

I shall be very happy with the pleasure of seeing them here, and of shewing them every friendly attention in my power. My humble Respects wait on your ghests, and likewise on our Friends at Prestonfield, and I ever am etc. etc.

JOHN DICK.

The young Countess of Balcarres writes to Lady Dick on the same subject.

“ St Fort Nov<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1789

DEAR LADY DICK

I must make you pay 3 pence for my congratulations and joy on this happy event taking place, long may you enjoy the happiness you so well deserve in two such sons in law as Rob<sup>t</sup> Lindsay and Mr Pringle and may Peg be as fortunate when she *starts*, according to her phrase. We were all drinking Bess's health after dinner on this auspicious day when your letter came in, and added extremely to the felicity of the day. We had also a letter from Mary in which there was one sentence which was worth more to me than all the rest which was that she is *the happiest of her sex*, there seems to be every appearance of her continuing so. I must certainly be at her Wedding and that I hope will be soon. I hate delays. My kind love to all with you and tell Lady Bal. I will write in a day or two.

I am happy you have allow'd Bob Dick to stay and enjoy the company of Mary a little. He is a fine fellow.

I am Dear Lady Dick

Your very affect<sup>e</sup> niece

E. B. BALCARRES.

P.S.

tell Miss Keith I got her letter to day and will write very soon. I have had several Letters from Lord Bal—still extremely busy and not able to (give?) us any exact accounts of things yet. he does not like to flatter us or himself too much yet that things may do well—but he says he *thinks* the Iron Works<sup>1</sup> may do nobly yet—that is more agreeable than having doubts of it tho' he does not say it with certainty.”

And now, from marriage and giving in marriage, we come to the exit from this life of “Our Young Soldier,” so often and affectionately mentioned in the various letters. The announce-

<sup>1</sup> Haigh Hall, Lancashire.

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ment of young Sir William's sudden death in a ball-room, while quartered at Durham with his regiment (the exchange from the Guards having been effected), is made to his brother John, by the Earl of Ancram, in the following letter :—

“Durham Nov. 19th 96

SIR

This letter, I am grieved to say, will be a message of most melancholy tidings; you must prepare yourself for a shock which is the more dreadful from being unexpected. Sir William Dick was taken suddenly ill last night, when dancing at a Ball, he dropt down and never recovered. Your fortitude will enable you to break the matter to his family in the most cautious manner possible. His Papers here have been sealed up. I conclude the interment will take place at Prestonfield, but of this circumstance and every other wish you may have relating to him, you will please inform me as soon as possible. I am Sir with much regard yours very sincerely

ANCRAM.

I have despatched a servant with a duplicate of this.”

A second letter gives an account of the funeral arrangements for travelling by road from Durham to Edinburgh, and of the sincere regret evinced by all his friends and brother officers.

“Durham 24 Nov<sup>r</sup> —96

SIR

The funeral left Durham this day at two o'clock, and will barring accidents arrive at Haddington on Sunday night, there to wait orders, as to the time you wish it to reach Prestonfield.

I have written to Mr Hamilton on this subject, and also to desire the proper person to attend for inserting the figures <sup>1</sup> which I mentioned to you in my last.

I have sent down an Officer of the Reg<sup>t</sup> in the mourning coach; and Sir James Foulis who offered to accompany it, has I am happy to say obtained leave of absence for a week for that purpose.

<sup>1</sup> His age on the plate, of which they were uncertain

It may not be improper to inform you that Cap<sup>t</sup> Dewar is at Vogrie, and Cap<sup>t</sup> Inglis in South Castle Street, Edinburgh.

The Funeral expenses will be transmitted in a day or two, and will I hope be found reasonable.

My extreme regard and friendship for your brother, will naturally lead you to conjecture, that no military honour which it was in my power to shew him was omitted.

It will I am sure be highly gratifying to you and the rest of his family to have the attention even of those who were unconnected with him.

The General commanding here, Sir Geo Bhorne, has ordered the whole Garrison to attend next Sunday at Church, where an Anthem suitable to the occasion will be performed by desire of the Dean and Chapter.

The whole of the Mid-Lothian Reg<sup>t</sup> both officers and men will appear there in deep mourning.

I sincerely hope that you and the Rest of your family, are beginning to reconcile yourselves to the Event.

I remain Sir

Yours very faithfully

ANCRAM.

The correspondence between Sir John Dick and Dowager Lady Dick at Salisbury Green continued at intervals until the former's health entirely broke down, a paralytic stroke in 1804 depriving him of his bodily, and gradually also of his mental faculties.

Finally, in a letter written from Mount Clare, 2nd December 1804, by Mr Cleathing, who seems to have taken charge at this time, his death is announced in the following manner.

"For some months he continued without any very material alteration, but on Friday last a sudden change took place, from that time the functions of nature ceased. Thus he continued till after one o'clock this morning when he was released from a long confinement and melancholy state in which it was impossible for friendship and affection to wish him longer to continue."

It was indeed unfortunate that Miss Jessy Dick had not taken Lady Anne Barnard's excellent worldly advice "to take possession

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of Sir John Dick's Castles at once," for all his money and valuable possessions were appropriated by his lawyer and doctor, there being no near relative on the spot to dispute their claims.

The contrast between the past and the present century is perhaps nowhere more strongly depicted than in this final episode.

THE END.

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